Bengaluru Thursday, May 14, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 133 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Kohli aces another chase for RCB

Opener's unbeaten 105 helps Challengers jump to the top

Page 16

Gold, silver import duty hiked to 15% to ease forex pressure

Prices surge by 7% as govt aims to cut import of precious metals

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government of India has more than doubled import duty on gold and silver to 15% from earlier 6% and on platinum to 15.4% from 6.4% to cut non-essential inbound shipments in order to reduce pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves and support the rupee, which has declined by over 4% against the dollar so far in the 2026 calendar year.

The basic customs duty on gold and silver has been increased to 10% from 5% and the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess has been hiked from 1% to 5%.

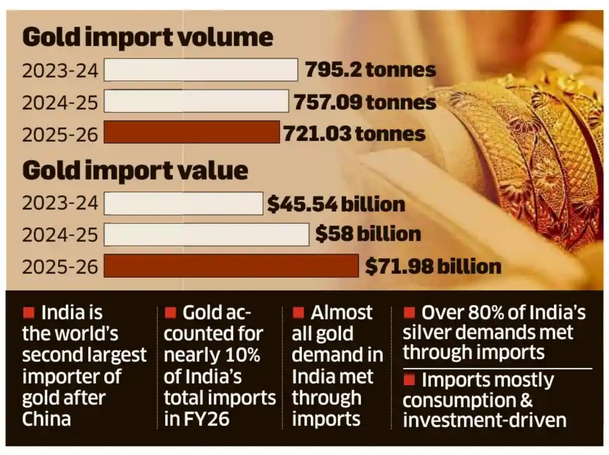
Total import tariffs on gold and silver, including 3% GST, now stand at 18.45%, which has more than doubled from the earlier rate of 9.18%. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified the new tariffs and it came into effect from Wednesday.

The decision comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to avoid buying gold for a year to conserve forex reserves and at a time when India is already facing high bills on import of fertiliser and crude oil due to the West Asia war.

India's gold import bill jumped $72 billion in 2025-26, a sharp 24% increase over the previous year. Gold accounted for nearly 10% of the country's total imports during the year.

Through the duty hike the government seeks to reduce imports, which are predominantly consumption and investment-driven. The hike's impact was immediate, with the prices of both gold and silver surging by around 7%.

▸ **Import duty, Page 4**
Rupee touches new low, P13


Gold import volume
2023-24 795.2 tonnes
2024-25 757.09 tonnes
2025-26 721.03 tonnes
Gold import value
2023-24 $45.54 billion
2024-25 $58 billion
2025-26 $71.98 billion
India is the world's second largest importer of gold after China
Gold accounted for nearly 10% of India's total imports in FY26
Almost all gold demand in India met through imports
Over 80% of India's silver demands met through imports
Imports mostly consumption & investment-driven

Boost for coal gasification

The Cabinet has approved a Rs 37,500-cr incentive scheme to promote surface coal and lignite gasification, aiming to reduce India's heavy dependence on imported fuel.
Details on Page 6

Govt allows hijab, other faith symbols in classrooms

Janivara, turban also allowed as 2022 order reversed

BENGALURU, DHNS

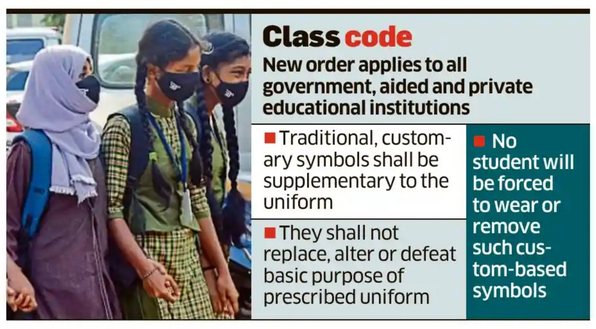
In a big policy reversal, the Siddaramaiah government on Wednesday revoked a 2022 order that virtually banned Muslim girls from wearing hijab in classrooms, and issued a new dress code allowing students to wear symbols of their faiths, including the Brahmin janivara.

School Education & Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa released the new order at a news conference along with Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao (Brahmin) and Shivajinagar Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad (Muslim).

The new order states that students can wear 'limited' traditional and custom-based symbols like peta or turban, janivara and shivadhara, rudrakshi and headscarves or hijabs along with the prescribed uniform. The order is applicable to Classes 1 to 12 or the pre-university.

Madhu Bangarappa said the order does not permit students to wear saffron shawls.

▸ **Hijab, Page 4**



Class code
New order applies to all government, aided and private educational institutions

- Traditional, customary symbols shall be supplementary to the uniform
- They shall not replace, alter or defeat basic purpose of prescribed uniform
- No student will be forced to wear or remove such custom-based symbols

GBA RELIEF

'B' khata conversion charges cut

Amid poor response from citizens for converting their properties from 'B' khata to 'A' khata, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a 60% discount that will be applicable for 100 days starting May 15. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar termed it a "one-time" relief. P 2

OPPOSING APPS

26k drug stores in K'taka to join May 20 strike

Around 26,000 pharmacies across Karnataka, including 6,500 in Bengaluru, are likely to be shut on May 20 as they join a nationwide strike against the sale of medicines on delivery apps. The Centre failed to end the online sales, the association of pharmacies said. P 5

LACK OF AMENITIES

Students protest at NLSIU

Lack of basic amenities, overcrowding, alleged crumbling infrastructure and the management's alleged laxity in addressing grievances triggered a large-scale protest by students at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru on Tuesday night. P 2

NEET: CBI arrests 5 as probe into paper leak intensifies

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Five persons have been arrested by the CBI in connection with the alleged irregularities and paper leak related to the NEET UG-2026 examination, officials said on Wednesday after searches were conducted at several locations across the country.

The premier investigative agency took over the case from the Rajasthan Police on Tuesday after the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG exam held on May 3 and the Ministry of Education lodged a complaint.

An FIR was registered for offences including criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and other relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Prevention of Corruption Act, and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

Investigations led to the arrest of five persons — Shubham Khairnar from Nashik, Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal (all from Jaipur), and Yash Yadav from Gurugram. Several other suspects are currently being examined, a CBI statement said.

Khairnar is being brought to Delhi for further questioning after a local magistrate court sent him to transit remand of the agency, an official said.

Based on emerging leads, further searches and investigative actions are underway, the statement said. During the searches and arrests, several incriminating materials and electronic devices, including mobile phones, have been seized.

The agency is also coordinating with the Special Operations Group (SOG), Rajasthan Police, which had conducted a preliminary inquiry, it said adding the CBI is pursuing all leads relating to the alleged paper leak through extensive technical and forensic analysis.

▸ **NEET-UG, Page 4**

Vijay wins trust vote; gets backing of AIADMK rebel MLAs

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Passing the first hurdle comfortably, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday won the trust vote in the Tamil Nadu Assembly with "generous support" from 25 "rebel" AIADMK MLAs, who voted in favour of his four-day government.

At the end of voting, Speaker J C D Prabhakar announced that the motion was supported by 144 MLAs and opposed by 22 AIADMK MLAs owing allegiance to Edappadi K Palaniswami, while four PMK MLAs and the lone BJP member abstained.

"Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has the confidence of this House," Prabhakar said, before adjourning the House sine die.

Moments before the motion was put to vote, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin led a walkout of the DMK members, who did not participate in the voting.

He accused the TVK government of indulging in "horse trading" to prove its majority and said people who voted for "change" are now worried if there was any "exchange", referring to the support from rebel AIADMK MLAs.

▸ **Vijay, Page 4**
EPS sacks rebels, Page 6

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97.80 SAHITHA PULLALARAVU

97.20 SUDHANVA S RAO

96.80 GOUTHAM S

96.60 VINEET G

96.20 LIKITH S

96.00 PRACHI SHILPA PRASAD

95.80 SRIRAM PAI H

94.80 PUSHKAR SHIRISH UDAS

94.80 K H RONAK THAMMAIAH

94.00 TANVI SHASHI KUMAR

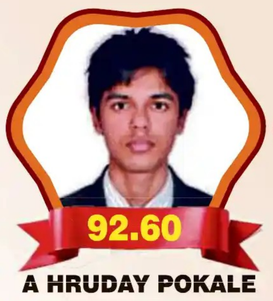
93.80 M A THEJAL

93.20 RISHITHA G R

93.00 GUNASHREE S

93.00 N K JANANI

93.00 PRAKRUTHI R J


92.60 A HRUDAY POKALE

92.60 AADISH BIDARI

91.40 VISMITHA P

91.20 POOJITH SAI REDDY M

90.80 GREESHMA M

90.80 SOHAM SAKHARAM SHETE

90.40 VISSA DEEPESH VAMSI

90.40 NIHAL S

NLSIU students protest through the night over crumbling infra

High fees, poor facilities & unresponsive administration, say aspiring lawyers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Lack of basic amenities, overcrowding, crumbling infrastructure and the management's failure to address grievances triggered a large-scale protest by students at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru on Tuesday night.

Around 10 pm, hundreds of students gathered at the basketball court inside the Nagarabhavi campus. They stayed until 5 am before taking a break and resumed the protest in the afternoon.

Multiple students, requesting anonymity, told *DH* what ails the premier law school.

"Taps, flushes, jet sprays, all stop working at times, more so recently. Even water coolers stop dispensing normal water, let alone cold water, in this scorching heat. There have been instances of unclean water as well," a student said.

Another complained that Vice-Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy was not receptive to students' requests and micro-manages decisions.

"Even minor decisions such as switching on air-conditioning inside classrooms are taken by the V-C," the student said.

Students also cited disparity in women's hostels, saying they are forced to share bunk beds in small rooms. While the men's hostel has 18 bunk beds, the women's has 93. Some claimed there were instances of 36 girls sharing three toilets on one floor.

Hundreds of students gathered at the basketball court on the Nagarabhavi campus around 10 pm on Tuesday. They continued their protest until 5 am before resuming it again in the afternoon.

'He was on his phone': Students criticise V-C after meeting

On Wednesday, V-C Krishnaswamy met students at 3.52 pm, after agreeing to meet them at 3 pm.

He reportedly told them he was there to listen and would respond in writing in a phased manner over the next seven to 10 days.

"In many instances, he was on his phone while some women students spoke. He walked away immediately once the stipulated time was up," a student said.

The NLSIU did not respond to an email sent by *DH* seeking comment until press-time.

Student safety

Another student claimed construction was underway on the campus with no regard for student safety.

On April 15, parts of a slab at the entrance to the New Academic Block collapsed between 8.20 am and 8.25 am.

A similar incident was reported inside the men's hostel on May 12. No one was hurt.

A lift in a men's hostel also allegedly crashed from the second floor to the basement with people inside.

DH has reviewed photographs and videos of some of these incidents shared by a student who requested anonymity.

Fee burden

Students also complained that fees are close to Rs 5 lakh per annum, on a par with private universities.

"The administration encourages taking loans as there are inadequate funds for scholarships. Despite paying such hefty fees, adequate facilities are missing. The student intake is higher, but without adequate infrastructure," a student said.

Man shows woman photos of her children, threatens her

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old woman from a north-eastern state has filed a complaint against an unidentified man who allegedly threatened her at a cafe in Koramangala.

Police said the incident occurred on May 9 around 11.30 am when the accused, believed to be around 25 years old, approached the woman and opened WhatsApp on his mobile phone. He allegedly showed her photographs of her children, leaving her shocked and disturbed.

The accused then displayed objectionable photographs and threatened her with dire consequences. He also warned her to withdraw a case she had filed earlier against his friends and threatened her life before leaving the cafe.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the woman had worked as a strategy officer at a small finance bank in 2020.

After leaving the company, she had filed a complaint with the Guwahati police against two people, identified as Rajan Bajaj and Yudan Wang, in connection with a financial dispute.

Police suspect the unidentified man may have learnt about the earlier case and threatened the woman at the behest of the two people named in the complaint.

Koramangala police have registered a case and a team is analysing CCTV footage from the cafe and surrounding areas to identify and trace the accused.

'MY KHATA, MY RIGHT'

GBA launches 52 one-stop centres for all e-khata services

Temporary kiosks from May 16 on Saturdays only

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seeking to streamline e-khata services amid allegations of harassment by officials, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched a new initiative called 'Open House', where citizens can access all property-related services, including 'B' khata to 'A' khata conversion, at a single location.

Starting May 16, the temporary kiosks, which will function every Saturday, will be opened at 52 locations across Bengaluru, including ward offices and schools.

Describing the campaign as 'My Khata, My Right', Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the scheme is part of the state government's 'Bhu Guarantee' initiative, or the sixth guarantee, which ensures that citizens' property records are not tampered with.

"There are 23 lakh properties within the GBA limits. We have created a database for all properties that is secure, trustworthy and digital," Shivakumar told reporters.

As part of the campaign, the GBA will hand over physical copies of e-khata documents, both draft and final, to owners of all 23 lakh properties by visiting their homes, he added.

To improve delivery of citizen services and effectively respond to grievances, the GBA and the five newly carved-out corporations will establish 'e-Khata Citizen Open Houses' at 52 locations every Saturday, the Bengaluru Development Minister said.

Around 5,000 citizens are expected to benefit from it every Saturday.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during a press conference regarding the announcement of various initiatives in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Services at Open House

Among the services to be offered at these Open Houses are issuance of final e-khata, new e-khata, and conversion of 'B' khata to 'A' khata.

Officials said priority would be given to clearing pending applications from property owners whose requests were previously rejected online. Citizens can also walk into the Open House without prior appointments.

Each Open House will have adequate manpower to handle up to 100 applications a day, the press note stated. The centres will feature special counters, seating arrangements, a queue management system, internet-connected computers, printers and scanners, as well as payment counters, if required.

Assistant revenue officers, revenue inspectors, technical staff and senior officers will also be present at these centres. Citizens have been requested to visit the centres with the required property documents, officials said.

Shivakumar added that staff and officers working on the second and third Saturdays, generally government holidays, will be entitled to compensatory leave.

The campaign, he said, has been launched with the intention of reducing pending applications, delivering citizen-friendly services and ensuring transparency in governance.

GBA slashes 'B' khata conversion charges to 2% for 100 days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid poor response from citizens for converting their properties from 'B' khata to 'A' khata, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a 60% discount applicable for 100 days, starting May 15.

Announcing what he described as a one-time relief, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said 'B' khata properties will now be charged 2% of the guidance value instead of 5%, provided owners apply within the next 100 days.

"So far, a property valued at Rs 1 crore had to pay Rs 5 lakh for the conversion of 'B' khata. The fee will now be reduced to just Rs 2 lakh. About 7 lakh 'B' khata properties can make use of this scheme," Shivakumar said, adding that the scheme does not come under the ambit of Akrama Sakrama, on which the Supreme Court has ordered status quo.

He said the GBA would charge 5% of the guidance value for all applications received after the 100-day period.

The scheme was introduced amid poor response from owners of 'B' khata properties when it was first rolled out around six months ago.

So far, about 7,000 citizens have applied. However, not all applications are eligible for 'A' khata, as the GBA has drafted internal guidelines to reject properties built on land earmarked for roads, stormwater drains and other public infrastructure.

If 50% of the 7 lakh properties avail the scheme, the GBA stands to earn about Rs 5,000 crore.

RDSO officials during oscillation trials for the Pink Line train. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pink Line opening delayed again; likely by August 15

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Pink Line's elevated section is now slated to open only by August 15, a nearly three-month delay from the government's May-end deadline as statutory approvals will take two more months, officials in the know said.

On May 9, the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) concluded the 12-day oscillation trials and Emergency Braking Distance (EBD) tests for the Pink Line rolling stock.

Oscillation trials determine the maximum safe operating speed of a new train before it is approved for public service. EBD tests measure a train's ability to stop safely. The trial was conducted at 90 kmph, the train's design speed, a senior BMRCL official said.

While the trials were conducted successfully, the RDSO will take three to four weeks to submit its report, the official noted.

The BMRCL will submit this report to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for rolling stock inspection and final approval from the Ministry of Railways. After this, the RDSO will issue the final speed certificate.

"We expect the speed certificate by June-end. Only then will we approach the CMRS for a safety inspection of the train," a second official said.

In the meantime, the BMRCL has begun preparations to start the Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) for signalling and train control systems by the end of May. The ISA certification, to be provided by Jodova Technologies Pvt Ltd, is another crucial document for the safety inspection of the entire line, the official stated.

"We're aiming to complete everything by mid-to-late July. The government will then decide when to open the line," the first official said.

The Pink Line's elevated section spans 7.5 km and connects Kalena Agrahara to Taverekere along Bannerghatta Road via six stations, including an interchange with the Yellow Line at Jayadeva Hospital. It will expand the Bengaluru metro network to 103.6 km, helping it reclaim the second spot from Mumbai (101.43 km).

Meanwhile, Bengaluru-based PSU BEML is expected to deliver a sixth Pink Line train next week. "The train has some minor snags that are being addressed," the second official said.

Peak-hour frequency will be about five minutes.

The Pink Line's 13.75-km underground section (Dairy Circle-Nagawara) is slated to open in December.

GBA to issue occupancy certificates for buildings with up to 15% deviation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the GBA will start issuing occupancy certificates to buildings deviating from the original sanctioned plan to a maximum of 15%.

The relaxation, so far restricted to 5%, will help properties unable to get water and electricity connections due to a Supreme Court order.

"We are not doing anything illegal. Due to the high demand for land in the city, property owners have constructed buildings in violation of the approved sketch. The Act allows a maximum relief of 50% for plots measuring up to 40x60 sqft. Now, we have restricted (the exemption) to 15%," Shivakumar said.

He also announced a scheme allowing properties built in BDA layouts to regularise their construction by paying fees. The scheme, under Section 38D of the BDA Act, was introduced during the BJP's tenure in 2020.

"More than 1 lakh properties will stand to benefit. As the fee was high, not many had come forward then. Now, we have decided to offer a 50 per cent discount for three months starting June 15," he said. The fee ranges between 25% and 50% of the guidance value, now discounted by half.

BDA to finally compensate land losers of Shivaram Karanth Layout

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to return a portion of land to farmers parting with their property for the formation of the Shivaram Karanth Layout.

DK Shivakumar said 3,052 farmers are eligible for 18,000 developed sites.

"The court has given permission," he said, adding that allotment will begin on May 15.

"Some farmers have opted for bulk land. We will process such requests, too. As per the scheme, a farmer parting with one acre of farm land was eligible for 9,583 sqft of site." About 12,000 sites may also be available for the public.

Land to be notified for second phase of PRR project

The BDA has proposed a 33-km Peripheral Ring Road — PRR 2 — between Hosur Road and Mysore Road via Kanakapura Road, running parallel to NICE Road.

DK Shivakumar said the land, notified several years ago, will be acquired for the project.

"We will not denotify any property," he said, adding that land owners can opt for one of five types of compensation, including cash, a developed site, and transferable development rights.

DECONGESTION DRIVE

Bus priority lanes to make a comeback on ORR

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

An 'all-hands-on-deck' meeting called by City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh to address traffic on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) has put the return of bus priority lanes (BPL) in a new form at the center of plans.

Authorities are also pushing to incentivise public transport and discourage single-occupancy vehicles.

The meeting brought together the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), and Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA).

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy suggested converting the bus priority lanes into High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, allowing vehicles with more than three occupants to use them alongside buses.

"In the past, bus priority lanes have proven to be successful in the neighbourhood," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East) Sahil Bagla. "An HOV lane can be very helpful in the area once it is all set up. We can fine-tune the implementation to ensure the lane is used efficiently."

Before the Covid-19 lockdown, the lanes had cut BMTC bus travel time by 15 minutes and increased commuter numbers by 4%, said GT Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC. The corporation currently operates close to 4,000 buses along the ORR.

BMTC Managing Director Sivakumar KB urged companies along the ORR to approach the corporation for chartered and dedicated services, reviving dedicated fleet operations at IT parks that existed before the pandemic. He also suggested issuing discounted bus passes for employees.

Bus priority lanes will now be part of the Rs 400-crore redevelopment along the ORR, from KR Puram to Central Silk Board, covering white-topping, asphalting, and improvements to footpaths and service roads.

"The tender for the works will be awarded within a month and work will begin in the monsoon," said RK Mishra, independent director at B-SMILE. "We do not want to delay it any further. We will make the bus priority lanes a part of the infrastructure, bringing them back. This has been delayed due to the metro works."

The Namma Metro Blue Line between the ORR and the airport is scheduled to be operational by year-end. Mishra said a congestion tax is also under discussion and will be considered once the metro is running and the road redevelopment is completed.

ORRCA President Manas Das said the agencies' coordinated approach brought hope of a positive change along the ORR in the coming months. He added that traffic movement had already improved in recent weeks.

The meeting also included an open house for representatives of IT companies to share their grievances.

Infra projects under consideration

GBA Chief M Maheshwar Rao said his team is considering infrastructure projects beyond the Rs 400-crore redevelopment to continue improvements along the ORR.

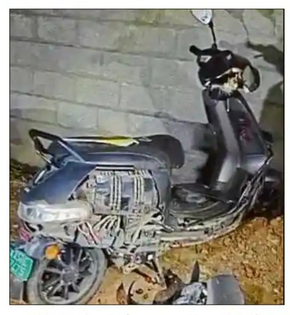
"We are considering a complete remodelling of Iblur Junction," he said. "We are also looking into an additional flyover at Iblur Junction, and one at Rainbow Children's Hospital near Marathahalli."

Hit-and-run: Audi driver kills man, flees accident spot

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old man was killed and his wife and daughter were injured in a hit-and-run accident in north Bengaluru on Tuesday night, police said.

Police suspect the accident was caused by a speeding Audi driver, who allegedly fled the scene without helping the victims.

Although CCTV cameras captured the incident, the car's high-beam headlights obscured its registration number, making identification difficult.



The electric scooter that was knocked down by the Audi in the Chikkajala police station limits on Tuesday.

Mahesh, the deceased.

Mahesh, a garment factory worker, was returning home to Kodagalahatti with his wife Kala, 38, and daughter Charvika, 13, after attending a wedding. The family was travelling on an electric scooter.

Around 8.50 pm, Mahesh swerved to avoid a pothole on an interior road near the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, located about 7 km from the airport road.

At that moment, the speeding Audi rammed the scooter, throwing all three onto the road. Mahesh died on the spot, while his wife and daughter sustained grievous injuries.

The injured were admitted to a private hospital and are said to be in a stable condition, an officer from the Chikkajala police station said.

Police inspected the scene, but the absence of a visible registration number has hampered the investigation. Efforts are under way to identify and trace the driver using other leads.

A case has been registered at the Chikkajala police station.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Discussion: On conservation of environment and water resources; TV Ramachandra, Kuruburu Shanthakumar, Mukhyamantri Chandru, and others to participate; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; 11 am.

Convocation: 60th year convocation ceremony of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru; Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, N Chaluvaraya Swamy, Shashidhar LS to take part; Dr Baba Rajendra Prasad International Auditorium, GKVK; 11.30 am.

Annual Day: Organised by Abbas Khan Women's College; Ayesha Khanum to take part; College campus, Cubbonpet; 11.30 am.

CULTURAL

Short film release: 'Accident' and play 'Khakiyolagina Santha'; Organised by BMTC cultural wing; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 5 pm.

Concert: Anuradha S Patil on vocals, Amit Sharma on harmonium, Srinivas Khakandaki on tabla; Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Banashankari; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	38%
Sunset (May 14)	6:37 pm
Sunrise (May 15)	5:55 am
Moonrise	2:47 am
Moonset	3:15 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

NOVEMBER 2024

A massive fire at the MY EV Store on Dr Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar claimed the life of 20-year-old Priya, who had been working as a cashier at the showroom for the past three years. The blaze reportedly broke out while a battery was being charged inside the showroom.

OCTOBER 2025

A fire broke out in a commercial building and **19 electric vehicles were gutted** at Yelachenahalli near JP Nagar, Bengaluru. Fire officials had then suspected that the blaze originated from one of the EV charging points before spreading to nearby vehicles.

Recently, the union government approved Karnataka's proposal for installation of **1,243 EV charging stations with an outlay of Rs 123 crore under the PM E-DRIVE initiative.** Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy said his ministry is developing the 'Unified Bharat e-Charge' platform to help EV users locate charging stations, access multiple charging networks and make payments through a single interface. Overall, proposals worth Rs 503 crore for 4,874 EV chargers across various states and CPSEs have been approved.

> Compared to 2024 and 2025, there has been an over 60% increase in demand for our products year-on-year. We predict a bigger increase in the coming months, given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to move away from fossil fuel. Apart from that, we've noticed the younger crowds increasingly opting for EVs, as EV infrastructure is slowly improving in the city.
>
> **- Representative of a popular EV brand**

STILL 'EV'OLVING: As electric vehicle ecosystem grows, recurring mishaps raise concerns

No SOP yet; state mulls charging safety norms

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The tragic death of a 65-year-old auto driver in an alleged EV charging fire incident has once again raised serious concerns over safety practices in Bengaluru neighbourhoods, where such accidents are increasingly being reported from densely populated residential areas.

But the Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services Department is yet to release a dedicated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for EV charging safety for high rise buildings and individual buildings.

NBC norms

A senior officer from the Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services Department said the department is currently following the provisions under the National Building Code (NBC) 2016, while the proposed NBC 2025 safety norms are yet to be formally accepted and implemented. "We are currently following NBC 2016. The NBC 2025 rules are yet to be implemented as they have not been accepted yet. If these new rules are implemented, standard safety measures such as specifications for chargers, mandatory distance between vehicles and charging points, ventilation requirements in high-rise buildings and basement parking areas will become clearer," the officer said.

Though it is advised not to install charging stations in the basements, many apartment complexes continue to install them. "We advise our members not to install charging stations in the basement. However, the SOP by the KERC or the Bescom does not prohibit such installations. While the officials from the fire safety department advise against it, there is no SOP from them and hence a few of them continue to use chargers in the basement as it is more convenient," said Satish Mallya from the Bangalore Apartments' Federation.

The officer said a recent national-level committee meeting discussed EV charging infrastructure, economic activity and revenue generation, but deliberations are still continuing on whether stricter safety regulations should be enforced.

"According to the proposed NBC 2025 recommendations, EV charging points should not be permitted below ground level. If charging is allowed in the first basement, it must be restricted only to slow or trickle charging," the officer said.

The draft norms also propose compartmentalisation of charging areas inside basements, with each isolated section not exceeding 200 square metres. "Special fire safety measures including fire-resistant materials, sand buckets and powder- or gas-based fire extinguishers should be made mandatory in EV charging zones," the officer added.

Highlighting electrical concerns, the officer said the proposed code also focuses on preventing overloading of building electrical systems and recommends proper earthing, grounding and surge protection mechanisms.

An electrician replaces the 6-mm cable with a 16-mm armoured heavy cable for EV charging at an apartment at Kengeri in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Common reasons for fires

- Lower-specification wiring and poor quality sockets
- Sub-standard chargers without valid certification
- Faulty battery

Apartments, RWAs tread with caution on charging

MANJUNATH SHETTAR AND SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

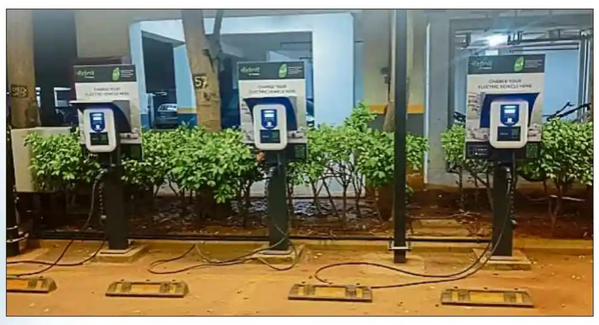
Providing infrastructure for the increasing use of Electric Vehicles (EV) in apartment complexes, especially older ones, has to be done in a cautious manner, experts warned.

Older apartments and buildings with lower load capacity and old wiring may be at risk of accidents if large numbers of vehicles are charged continuously. Though the installation of public or shared charging stations requires approval from Bescom, it does not completely audit building's wiring, sources said.

"In many cases, when buildings are older than 15 years, we advise our members to get building wiring checked to ensure that it is capable of handling load. The electrical inspectorate also helps the audit," said Satish Mallya from Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF).

Senior Bescom officials said that the resident welfare associations should also act responsibly and keep track of charging facilities.

"Overcharging is a major problem. This has to be addressed. While many of the smart chargers have an auto cut off, in a few cases it does not get triggered and that leads to accidents. Residents should be careful to remove vehicle from charging," a senior Bescom official said.



While many apartments are not equipped with an emergency response plan for untoward incidents with respect to EV charging stations, the rise in accidents has forced many apartment associations to chalk out measures.

"The association has taken a strict stand on safety issues. Only community charging points have been permitted. Some individuals wanted to instal separate charging points for their vehicles, but we did not allow it," said Manjunath Mudolkar, president of VBHC Palmhaven-2 A Block, an apartment complex.

Many apartments are now getting their electrical infrastructure checked and changed to prevent hazards.

Subramanya Reddy, an electrician, said a 16-mm armoured heavy cable is now being installed at an apartment complex at Kengeri. "The earlier 6 mm cable could melt and pose danger," he said.

EV fires: Quality of chargers is often to blame for, say experts

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the increase in adoption of electric vehicles (EV), the need to provide charging infrastructure has come to the fore. EV charging stations have started popping up across the city.

Over the years, there have been multiple incidents of EVs catching fire and this may also be due to poor quality charging infrastructure, experts said.

Following the surge in use of EVs, the state government has mandated that developers instal EV charging stations at apartment complexes. But charging stations installed to meet regulatory requirements may not be up to the mark, leading to fire accidents.

"One of the major potential causes for such fire accidents involving EVs is lower-specification electrical wiring and sockets which cannot withstand the load. EV charging uses continuous high-power loads and hence, it is important to ensure that the electrical system design is capable of withstanding it," said Chaitanya Kanuri, programme director - electric mobility & batteries, WRI India.

Many apartment dwellers told *DH* that there are only a few chargers on their premises and were unsure of the quality.

"Since the number of chargers is less, many of the chargers are constantly occupied and we don't know if they can withstand such load. Many times, we have heard that there is a technical glitch and as a result, charging had to be paused," said Raghu R, resident of an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road.

While low quality battery systems without robust thermal production used in non-branded EVs could be one of the other major causes for such incidents, use of sub-standard chargers could also be playing a major role.

The EV after-sales market often has chargers which may be preferred by consumers due to their lower costs, but may not be certified.

"Since EVs are an emerging product sector, consumers may be unaware about reputed vehicle brands and product safety and performance standards. It is important that people choose certified and high-quality EVs and chargers, as they would for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles," Kanuri said.

Thermal runaway is the major cause for fire and this is caused due to overheating of the battery. In many cases, chargers don't cut off supply even after complete charge. Temperature management and communication with the EV is a problem in substandard chargers.

SITUATIONAL SURGE

Demand up in last two months, citizens spoilt for brand choice

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers have witnessed a marked increase in demand in the past two months, and industry insiders predict this demand will likely shoot up soon.

While demand for four-wheelers is slowly rising, that for cost-efficient locally assembled two-wheelers is much higher.

"Compared to 2024 and 2025, there has been an over 60% increase in demand for our products year-on-year. We predict a bigger increase in the coming months, given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to move away from fossil fuel. Apart from that, we've noticed the younger crowds increasingly opting for EVs, as EV infrastructure is slowly improving in the city," said the representative of a popular EV brand, adding that the past two months saw a rise in customer enquiries.

Mid-range four-wheelers continue to be in demand even in the EV market, said Ajay Singh, director (sales and marketing), Advaith Hyundai.

"There has been a steady rise in demand for our mid-range EV car. The demand has especially shot up in the last two to three months. While the ongoing conflict in West Asia and its impact might play a part, other market factors also play a role," he said.

Citizens believe Bengaluru is spoiled for choice when it comes to EV brands.

"I purchased an EV scooter recently after a lot of research. Multiple brands are currently popular in the city. Some brands, while they are cheap, also seem to have some design concerns. Some have the engines almost exposed, which is a safety hazard. There needs to be a regulatory body to look into the design of cost-effective two-wheelers," said Syed Abrar, a 30-year-old IT employee.

From LPG to EV

The commercial sector, too, is moving towards increased EV adoption, said S Nataraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations.

"Slowly but steadily, the number of electric taxis on the road is increasing. More companies are deploying electric taxis in Bengaluru," he said.

Sharma requested the state and central governments to provide subsidies to encourage auto and cab drivers to convert their vehicles from LPG and CNG to electric vehicles.

Conversion to electric

Over the past five months, more auto drivers using CNG and LPG are now opting to convert their vehicles to electric ones, instead of spending Rs 4 lakh on a new electric auto.

Drivers are reaching out to various city-based agencies to get the retrofitment kit installed, which allows the vehicle to be converted at a cost of Rs 2.5 lakh.

While the demand for four-wheelers is slowly rising, that for cost-effective locally assembled two-wheelers is much higher. DH FILE PHOTO

163 students of St John's Medical College receive PG degrees

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 163 students of St John's Medical College received their degrees at the postgraduation ceremony on Wednesday. Among them, 24 graduates secured state and national university ranks.

The pass rate this year in speciality postgraduates was 94%, with 11 of the 116 students securing among the top 10 university Ranks, with three gold medals. Among the superspecialty and DNB super-speciality students, the pass rate was 100%, with 13 of the 44 students securing university and national ranks, with 5 gold medals.

Dr Udata Pranavi (Family Medicine), Dr Honey Mol (Pathology) and Dr Aneeta Shaji (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) secured the state university gold medal and first rank. Dr Ruby Aleyamma Roy (Family Medicine) and Dr Swathi N (Transfusion Medicine) secured the second rank and Dr Pragnya Sood (Community Medicine) secured the fifth rank in Karnataka. In the DM and MCh Courses, Dr Sanjan Rai K (Endocrinology), Dr Hrudya (Gastroenterology), Dr Chinthana L (Neonatology) and Dr Swetha C Nair (Pulmonary Medicine) secured the state university gold medal and first rank. Dr Chaitanya H Balakrishna (Haematology) secured the prestigious DNB National Gold Medal.

Graduates at the graduation ceremony of St John's Medical College on Wednesday.

Chief guest Dr Uday George Zachariah, associate director of Christian Medical College and alumnus of the 1990 batch, in his graduation address, encouraged the passing out students to serve humanity with passion and compassion.

RTC staff firm on pay hike; bus strike looms from May 20

BENGALURU, DHNS

Government bus services in Karnataka may be disrupted from May 20 onwards, as Road Transport Corporation (RTC) employees' unions vowed to go ahead with an indefinite strike over pay hike and arrears payment.

On Wednesday, the Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation rejected the 12.5% pay hike announced by the government with effect from April 1, 2025.

Instead, it demanded a 25% hike from January 1, 2024, plus 12 months of arrears. The 12.5% will benefit 1.05 lakh employees and officers of the 4 bus corporations, resulting in an additional expenditure of Rs 72.8 crore a month & Rs 873.64 crore a year.

It will be paid from July 1, 2026, and remain in force until March 31, 2029.

The committee, representing six employees' unions, said that the government must pay Rs 513.08 crore in arrears for 2020. The arrears resulted from the previous 15% hike, which covered the period from January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2024. While employees received the hike from March 1, 2023, they were not paid arrears for 38 months prior. The government agreed to pay arrears for only 26 months, declining to pay for 2020 due to the pandemic.

The unions stuck to their demand for a fresh hike of 25% — in line with the 27.5% hike granted to other government employees under the 7th Pay Commission — for four years, starting January 1, 2024.

The committee stated that Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had said at an April 29 meeting that a final decision on the hike would be taken after discussions with the chief minister and assured another meeting would be called. But on May 12, the government 'unilaterally' announced the 12.5% hike.

"The Joint Action Committee condemns this decision of the government," it said at a press conference here on Wednesday. It urged the government to withdraw both orders and hold discussions or else it will launch an indefinite strike from May 20.

It also demanded that the 31% dearness allowance that existed as of July 1, 2022, be merged with basic pay, annual increments must be revised as per charter of demands dated January 25, 2024, and a revised pay scale must be created.

Arrears for the said period must also be paid. Drivers' daily allowance and other allowances must be increased, the committee said.

'Box of explosives on PM's convoy route amateurishly assembled'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have expanded the probe into the case involving explosives found along Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy route on the outskirts of the city on May 10.

Special teams of investigators from the Bengaluru South district are looking for clues beyond the crime scene and near the Tamil Nadu border.

Two gelatin sticks, six incense sticks, a matchbox and cellophane tapes, along with a battery pack, wires and what appeared to be a circuit board were found 20 feet off a mud road adjacent to the forested area near Kanakapura Road.

Modi's convoy later passed through the route as he was scheduled to attend a programme at Art of Living Ashram. Sources said prima facie the explosives were set up in an "amateurish way".

"The circuit board was not connected to the gelatin sticks and battery pack. It seems highly unlikely that someone would put an explosive in the box and cover it with one round of cellophane tape. The entire setup looks amateurish. It was either an attempt to scare or someone must've dumped it there. We're investigating," a senior police officer said.

Sources said that the gelatin sticks looked old, but they were awaiting an expert opinion before forming conclusions.

Police are probing if there were any local issues around the venue that led someone to place the explosives. They are yet to ascertain a terror angle, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) remained on the sidelines, offering support without fully taking over probe.

Police have registered FIR under Section 4 (punishment for attempt to cause explosion or for making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property) of Explosive Substances Act and Section 9B of the Explosives Act.

K'taka hailed for DigiLocker use

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka was among five Indian states that were honoured for their 'outstanding contribution towards DigiLocker integration' by the Union government.

Alongside K'taka, the states of Gujarat, Keralam, Nagaland and Rajasthan were felicitated for 'exceptional contribution towards large-scale DigiLocker integration and adoption across government services.'

Karnataka has been instrumental in onboarding 73% of the government e-services marking their way towards Digital Karnataka and registered with the highest number of DigiLocker accounts with over 2.7 crore citizens using its services, the Union government said in a statement. Also, all five Escoms have been integrated and three crore electricity bill records digitised.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "This recognition reaffirms our commitment to a forward-looking Digital Karnataka—where public services are faster, simpler, transparent and accessible to every citizen."

The felicitation took place during the National Consultative Workshop on Strengthening Cybersecurity Frameworks for State Data, held on May 11.

Hijab order: Ashoka calls it 'desperate appeasement politics'

It's a strong, inclusive stand against discrimination: Rizwan

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka described the Congress government's decision on Wednesday, to allow the hijab in classrooms as "desperate appeasement politics".

In a statement, Ashoka said the government's decision was due to "growing anger" among the minority voter base, especially after a section of Muslim leaders attacked the Congress for denying their community the ticket to the Davangere South bypoll.

"While Karnataka is reeling under price rise, rampant corruption, farmer suicides and a collapsing law and order machinery, the government remains in a state of paralysis. However, the moment their political survival is at stake, they suddenly find the administrative will to rake up religious issues," Ashoka said, calling it "a calculated political bribe to appease a specific community that has recently shown its discontent."

Ashoka also charged that the government's decision amounted to "mockery" of the judiciary.

"In 2022, the High Court delivered a landmark judgment upholding a uniform dress code, emphasizing that educational institutions must remain centres of discipline and equality rather than arenas for religious display," he said.

"Bypassing this judicial consensus, the Congress government is essentially showing utter contempt for the law of the land."

The BJP leader accused the Congress of discrminating between the hijab and the saffron shawl.

"This discriminatory policy - treating one religion's identity as a right and another's as a violation - proves that for Congress, secularism is merely a tool for Hindu-baiting and minority appeasement," he said.

"The people of Karnataka are politically astute and are watching this selective secularism very closely," he said.

Shivajinagar Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad, however, hailed the government's decision as "a strong and inclusive stand against discrimination".

Arshad said no student should be denied educaiton because of identity, belief, faith or tradition.

"Educational institutions must remain spaces of learning and equality, where a student wearing a hijab, turban, janivara, shivadhara, rudraksha or any permitted symbol of faith and tradition is treated with equal dignity and respect," Arshad said.

"This decision reflects the true spirit of our Constitution and Karnataka's culture of harmony and coexistence".

R ASHOKA
LOP Legislative Assembly

"The Siddaramaiah govt has resurrected the hijab controversy. It's a classic move from the Congress manual: when you fail at governance, you resort to polarization."

RIZWAN ARSHAD
Cong MLA from Shivajinagar

"This is a strong and inclusive stand against discrimination, reaffirming that no student should be denied education because of identity, belief, faith or tradition."

Cong looking to 'loot' 9,600 acres in and around Bidadi: BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly R Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Congress government of attempting to 'loot' 9,600 acres in Bidadi and Kanchagana Halli under the pretext of building the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT).

The project, which is being pushed by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, is aimed at creating a self-sufficient satellite town, which is, in turn, expected to ease the pressure on Bengaluru and reduce traffic congestion in the city.

Pointing to the huge inventory of unoccupied flats in Bengaluru, Ashoka questioned the rationale behind the project.

"There are already around seven lakh private and government flats lying vacant in Bengaluru. But the Congress dispensation is a 'kanchana (gold)' government that is eyeing the vast expanse of fertile land in Bidadi and Kanchagana Halli, areas built by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, where farmers are cultivating coconut, areca and silk," rued Ashoka.

Pointing out that 3,000 acres of the 9,600 acres required for the township belonged to the government, Ashoka charged the Congress government with trying to use the project to mint money.

"The project was halted by former CM H D Kumaraswamy. Diversion of agricultural land will result in food shortage, besides compelling the Greater Bengaluru Authority to shoulder an additional financial burden of Rs 700 crore for garbage management," said the LoP.

'BJP ready for GBA polls'

Exuding confidence of the BJP's readiness for the polls to the five municipal corporations under the GBA, Ashoka said that the party was holding a meeting on May 15 to deliberate on the candidates for the elections and the composition of booth committees. Ashoka also criticised the Congress's attempts to postpone the elections.

Gold, silver import...

Import duty, From Page 1

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said high duty would fuel illegal import of gold and hit the domestic jewellery industry.

"Hiking import duties rarely curbs gold imports, it merely inflates prices. Despite gold prices doubling recently, imports have not declined proportionally," GJEPC said.

After the announcement of the hike, gold contracts for June delivery surged by 6.34% to Rs 1,63,165 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), while silver price soared by 6.97% to Rs 2,98,501 per kilogram.

The rally was witnessed in digital gold also. Gold and silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) jumped by upto 15%.

"Gold continues to hold its appeal as a safe-haven asset, particularly in times of global uncertainty and domestic currency pressures. For investors, the preferred route remains digital gold or gold ETFs," said Hareesh V, Head of Commodity Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), gold imports from Dubai are likely to jump due to duty concessions offered under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Under the CEPA deal, India allows gold import from the UAE at tariffs one percentage point below the normal Most Favoured Nation (MFN) rate. With the new MFN tariff structure taking effective duties to 15%, gold imported under the UAE quota would enter at 14%, it said.

India is the world's second largest consumer of gold after China. Though the gold import volume has declined in recent years, the import bills have surged due to higher prices. India imported 721.03 tonnes gold in 2025-26, lower from 795.2 tonnes in 2023-24. However, import value soared to $71.98 billion in FY26 from $45.54 billion in FY24. Almost all of India's gold demands are met through imports.

NOT A 'NEET' JOB

Members of the Youth Congress stage a protest alleging corruption in the NEET-UG entrance examination process, in front of the CADA office in Mysuru on Wednesday. Similar protests were held in Kalaburagi, Chikkaballapur, Gangavathi, Bengaluru and other parts of the state. DH PHOTO

Vijay wins trust vote; AIADMK rebels chip in

Vijay, from Page 1

Those who voted in favour of the motion are 105 TVK MLAs (excluding Tiruppattur MLA who was restrained from voting by the court), Congress (5), CPM, CPI, IUML and VCK (two each), AMMK (1), and rebel AIADMK MLAs (25). Only 22 members of the EPS faction voted against the motion.

Voting by rebel MLAs came even as Palaniswami told the House that the AIADMK has decided to vote against the motion and anyone voting in favour will face action.

He also found fault with Vijay for having met the rebel AIADMK MLAs when the party was facing an internal crisis. Despite objection from Palaniswami and his supporters, the Speaker allowed former minister S P Velumani to participate in the debate.

During the debate on the Motion of Confidence moved by Vijay, MLAs cutting across party lines criticised the government for appointing the chief minister's personal astrologer, Rickey Radhan Pandit, as an Officer of Special Duty (Political).

In his reply, Vijay promised that the issues pointed by opposition parties will be "rectified", and within an hour, the appointment of Pandit was revoked. Responding to criticism that the people did not give him majority support, Vijay said he was happy to run a "minority government" where the rights of minorities will be protected.

"This government will function with the speed of a horse and not indulge in horse trading," the chief minister said, adding that his government will continue to implement welfare measures of the previous DMK regime.

In his speech, Udhay came down heavily on the government for accepting the support of the rebel AIADMK MLAs. DMK president M K Stalin also reminded that his government was being supported by his former allies and sought to know whether the rebel AIADMK legislators will get any "return gift" from the chief minister.

NEET: CBI arrests 5...

NEET-UG, From Page 1

A CBI team has also visited the NTA headquarters in Delhi to collect documents related to the NEET UG examination.

Officials said the SOG found that the origins of a guess paper containing questions similar to those asked in the exam were traced to a student from Sikar district pursuing MBBS in Kerala.

In a related development, the Maharashtra Police has arrested a woman with alleged links to accused Khairnar. The suspect was identified as Manisha Waghmare (46), who ran a beauty parlour in Pune. She would be handed over to the CBI, the police said.

(With inputs from Mumbai)

A mock drill demonstration on how to respond to a terror attack was conducted by the state police and NGS commandos at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Restore enhanced SC/ST quota by vacating HC stay: BJP to Cong govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka BJP on Wednesday demanded the Siddaramaiah government to restore the enhanced SC/ST quota by vacating the High Court's interim stay instead of pursuing the protection under the Ninth Schedule.

"It's a conspiracy against the SC/ST communities by the Congress government. The SC quota was enhanced from 15% to 17% and ST from 3% to 7% during the Bommai-led BJP government by enacting a law. But the Congress government reduced the quota citing Gen Z protests and misled the court," alleged Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka.

BJP state vice-president Rajugouda Nayak alleged the Siddaramaiah government had failed to effectively defend the enhanced quota in the court.

The government lawyers skipped the court five times (between August 2025 and November 2025) leading to adjournment. The high court issued a stay (on recruitment based on enhanced quota) on November 27, 2025 citing it exceeded the 50% reservation cap. Instead of defending the law, the AG sought permission to carry out recruitment under 50% reservation and agreed to keep additional 6% as backlog," alleged Nayak.

Giving context to the row, Nayak said the ST community had 7.5% central reservation but in the state it was only 3% though many communities had been added under the ST category. "The Bommai government implemented the enhanced quota based on Justice Nagamohan Das Committee report. And for three years, the hiked reservation was applied to employment and medical and engineering seats. However, the Congress reduced the quota unable to defend itself in the court," alleged Nayak.

Citing the examples of Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, where reservation exceeds the 50% cap (58% and 69% respectively), Nayak demanded to know why Karnataka could not defend its 56% reservation in court.

LOP in Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayan said, "The Congress government should stop misleading dalits and saying the (enhanced quota) law should be brought under Ninth Schedule of the Constitution which provides shield from judicial scrutiny. In 2007, the Supreme Court has ruled that social justice and reservation issues cannot come under Ninth Schedule and will be subject to court scrutiny."

Govt allows hijab, other faith symbols in class rooms

Hijab, from Page 1

Controversy over the hijab broke out in early 2022 when some hijab-clad Muslim girls were stopped from attending classes at a pre-university college in Udupi citing a dress code.

On February 5, 2022, the then BJP government mandated students to wear the prescribed uniform in schools and PU colleges, virtually banning the hijab.

In March 2022, the Karnataka High Court upheld the order and concluded that wearing the hijab was not an essential religious practice in Islam. When the matter went to the Supreme Court, it delivered a split judgment in October 2022 on the validity of the hijab ban, leaving the issue for a larger bench to decide on.

Muslim leaders have been reminding Congress that the hijab issue, among others, remained unresolved even after three years of the party coming to power.

The government also wanted to provide clarity on the janivara after recent controversies involving Brahmin students being asked to remove the thread to write the Common Entrance Test (CET).

"In accordance with constitutional principles, the government must maintain a neutral and equal position towards all religions and traditions," the new order states.

Bangarappa said the decision was taken to promote "uniformity, equality, secularism and inclusive education" in schools and colleges. He added that the government also considered the prevailing dress code at Kendriya Vidyalayas.

The new order applies to all government, aided and private educational institutions. "Traditional and customary symbols shall be supplementary to the uniform and shall not replace, alter or defeat the basic purpose of the prescribed uniform," the order specifies.

"No student shall be denied entry into an educational institution, classroom, examination hall or academic activity on the ground that they are wearing such limited traditional and customary symbols along with the prescribed uniform," the order states, adding that no student will be forced to wear or remove such custom-based symbols.

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Dr UMA SREENIVASAN
passed away peacefully at home on 12th May 2026 at the age of 96.
She was a respected and compassionate physician who dedicated her life to healing and service. Over a distinguished career spanning several decades, she touched countless lives through her clinical skills, empathy, and unwavering commitment to those in her care.
A cherished presence in her family, she will be deeply missed and forever remembered by her siblings, nieces and nephews.

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PERSONAL
Change of Name
WE, KALPANA C P and Shashi kumar, parents of minor child "Siri.S" born on 30/07/2019, hereby declare that her name has been changed to "Siri Aaradhya S" for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHARADAMMA, residing at No.526, Sri Sharada Nivasa, 5th Cross, 3rd Main, BHEL Mini Colony, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru- 560057, have changed my name to SHARADA K R vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026 sworn before notary Anuradha D, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as SHARADA K R only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Umesha M and Umesh M Residing at H.No. 146, 2nd Phase, Blue Jay Ardley Layout, Doddabele Village Hobli, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560 060, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as UMESH M, vide affidavit dated 07-05-2026 before notary Hemalatha P, Bengaluru.

I, G.R. Paramashivachar S/o Late Ramachar, Residing at #734, 10th Block, BDA Layout, Near Kanaka Bhavana, Banashankari VI Stage, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560060, Karnataka. I have changed my name from G.R. PARAMASHIVACHAR to GOPALAPURA RAMACHAR PARAMASHIVACHAR vide affidavit date 12.05.2026 before Advocate & Notary S. Eshwara Reddy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAMAKRISHNA REDDY BALAKRISHNA REDDY, residing at No.605, 14th Cross, 15th A Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bengaluru– 560102, have changed my name to BALAKRISHNA REDDY vide affidavit dated 28-04-2026 sworn before notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as BALAKRISHNA REDDY only.

I, SHAZIA Banu Abdulsubhan W/o Rafiuddin Alias Illiyas Ahmed R/o Pearl Villa, No. 1218, 1st Stage 3rd Block HBR Layout, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Shaziya Banu Abdulsubhan for all purposes.

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Commercial Taxes Dept busts Rs 2,384-cr fake Input Tax Credit fraud; 2 held

'Probe reveals fake invoicing network involving 127 bogus entities'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Commercial Taxes Department on Wednesday said it had busted a Rs 2,384-crore fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraud cartel by arresting two suspects.

Based on specific intelligence inputs developed by the Intelligence Wing, the department said it unearthed a "highly organised" fake invoicing cartel operating through entities purportedly engaged in trading Tungsten Carbide scrap, e-waste and other scrap materials, "causing massive loss to the exchequer through fraudulent availment and passing of inadmissible ITC."

The arrested suspects have been identified as Saleemulla Baig, 49, and Hassain Baig, 35.

The probe found that Saleemulla, from M/s SKS Traders, "fraudulently" availed fake ITC from 72 bogus supplier entities involving a suspicious turnover of nearly Rs 2,172 crore and fake ITC of around Rs 382 crore.

Similarly, Hassain, from M/s KH E-Waste Recycler, Nayandahalli, allegedly availed fake ITC from 55 bogus supplier entities involving a suspicious turnover of approximately Rs 212 crore and fraudulent ITC of nearly Rs 38 crore.

"Both have been arrested under the provisions of the GST Act. The investigation has exposed a fake invoicing network involving 127 bogus entities, with aggregate suspicious turnover of about Rs 2,384 crore and fraudulent ITC of nearly Rs 420 crore," the department said.

Investigations further revealed that one of the principal entities in the cartel showed an abnormal escalation in declared turnover from nearly Rs 50 crore to Rs 945 crore within the last three financial years, without corresponding business infrastructure or actual movement of goods, indicating large-scale fraudulent paper transactions and circulation of fake tax invoices.

The department also claimed that misuse of high-value Tungsten Carbide scrap transactions, along with e-waste and scrap trading activities, were among the major aspects unearthed during the investigation. The Tungsten Carbide scrap transactions alone allegedly involved a suspicious turnover of nearly Rs 217 crore and fraudulent ITC of around Rs 39 crore.

The department also found that whenever departmental action, such as blocking of ITC or issuing notices, was initiated, the alleged fraudsters floated fresh bogus entities and availed new fake ITC to continue the fraud and evade detection.

HERCULEAN CHALLENGE

A massive radiation endshield, meant to be installed in Units 5 and 6 of the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, has remained overturned near Hartuga in Karwar taluk for over a week after the multi-axle vehicle carrying the 120-tonne equipment toppled just 4 km before reaching Kaiga. With the giant structure still blocking part of the road, vehicles are being diverted through a temporary stretch nearby, while a special crane is being brought from Gujarat for the recovery operation. DH PHOTO

'Over 10 lakh participants expected for Yoga Day'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Wednesday said that the government is expecting participation of over 10 lakh people across the state for International Yoga Day on June 21.

The main event, to be held on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha, will be inaugurated by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. Around 5,000 yoga practitioners are expected to participate in the mass Yoga demonstration programme scheduled from 6.00 am to 8.00 am. This year's theme is 'Nitya Yoga'. He launched Yoga event's stamps and brochures.

Actor Dileep Raj dies of heart attack at 47

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Noted Kannada actor and producer Dileep Raj died after suffering a heart attack in Bengaluru in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 47.

Last seen playing the role of a lawyer in 'Love Mocktail 3', Raj rose to fame as the antagonist opposite Puneeth Rajkumar in 'Milana' (2007).

Raj, who began his career in television, had already become a household name with serials like 'Preetigagi' and 'Kichchu'. Among the other serials he acted in were 'Ardha Satya', 'Ratha Sapthami', 'Kumkuma Bhagya' and 'Malebillu'.

Dileep Raj

He later went on to produce television serials such as 'Vidya Vinayaka' and 'Paaru' and even directed some episodes of the serials he produced.

Raj made his feature film debut with the film 'Boyfriend' (2005). His other notable films include 'Tony', 'U-Turn', 'Minchagi Nee Baralu', 'Ambi Ning Vayassaayto' and 'Nimma Vastugalige Neeve Javaabdararu'.

Actor Poornachandra Mysore, who played opposite him in 'Orchestra Mysuru', recalled, "Acting with him in 'Orchestra Mysuru' was an incredible experience. My friends would tell me to be extra prepared, even if I had to just stand beside him in a frame. He was such a natural actor."

Filmmaker Aravind Kaushik, who worked with him on several projects, including the serial 'Preetigagi', remembers him as an intensely curious person. Raj would sit with him for hours, observing his work as an editor. Kaushik had even written a film for him, titled 'Maatu Kathe', but the project never materialised.

Raj had a striking screen presence and an instinct for layered performances. He brought depth and complexity to his characters.

Is luck really that significant to success? One would wonder. In Raj's case, it certainly seemed so. Despite his immense talent, much of it remained underutilised. Just as younger filmmakers began recognising and harnessing his abilities through films like 'Orchestra Mysuru' and 'Nimma Vastugalige Neeve Javaabdararu', his untimely death has brought that creative journey to an abrupt end.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Pharmacists to strike work on May 20; 26k medical stores to remain shut

BENGALURU, DHNS: At least 6,500 in Bengaluru and 26,000 pharmacies across the state will remain shut on May 20. They join a nationwide strike called to protest the sale of medicines on delivery apps.

The online sale was allowed by the central government during the Covid pandemic period and despite multiple appeals to withdraw it, the government has failed to do so, they said.

The online apps offer discounts, coupons, 10-minute delivery options and other benefits, which are not financially viable for many pharmacies.

Speaking to *DH*, Ambekallu Jeevan Kushalappa, general secretary, Karnataka Chemists & Druggists Association, said, "We have called for a statewide bandh and pharmacies will be shut for the entire day. We will keep the pharmacies that are attached to hospitals open to help the patients".

The e-sale of drugs in India is regulated and restricted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, which state the requirement of a physical and licensed premises for sales.

Raghu Srinivas, a pharmacist, who has lent his support to the strike, said, "During Covid, it was essential because the movement was restricted. So, online sales made sense, but now the government can withdraw the order. Because of these apps, people refuse to visit medical shops even to buy non-emergency drugs."

Many pharmacy owners opined that the first thing the advent of online apps did was to shut down the local small grocery stores and now, they are eating into the businesses of medical stores.

"We (pharmacists) communicate with and understand the patients' problems. We also give a discount on our bandwidth and sometimes home-deliver medicines as well. Despite enhancing our services, we are not able to keep up with our business," said Janardhan S, another pharmacist in Jayanagar.

The pharmacists said that they have observed a sharp decline in the number of young customers visiting medical shops.

They all prefer ordering medicines online, the pharmacists said.

SAD DEMISE

Dr.K.G.DAS

DOB : 30.07.1928 DOD : 12.05.2026

Greatest doctor, Inspiring teacher, loving husband & father

Public Darshan: 14th May 2026 from 08.00 am to 12.00 pm.
@ No.18, Muniswamappa Layout, Halasuru,
Swamy Vivekananda Road, Bengaluru 560008

Cremation after 3.00 pm at Kalpalli cemetery, Cox Town

Mrs. Rama Devi G Das, Govardhan Das, Gokul Das,
Radhika Rani & Family members, relatives & friends
Mobile No. : 9482218262 / 9880624910

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, GBA OFFICE PREMISES, N.R.SQUARE, BENGALURU-560002

No B12(6)PR/213/19-20/2026-27 Date: 13.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

As indicated in the Letter No. UDD 400 M N U 2024 dated 08.07.2025 of the Government Urban Development Department, the retired Justice Shri Nagamohan Das Committee, which was constituted for investigating on the alleged illegality and malpractices in the civic works of earstwhile BBMP during the period from 2008-09 to 2011-12 in Gandhinagar, Malleshwaram and Rajarajeshwarinagar zones, it was apparent from the records found that the engineers listed in the attached press release performed their duties in the Engineering Department of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in Gandhinagar, Malleshwaram and Rajarajeshwari Nagar zones. Due to the non-availability of the address, the notices issued by the Urban Development Department of the government regarding the dereliction of duty have been returned without being served. The related notices are available at the office of Under Secretary to the Government (Services-B), Public Works Department Ports and Inland Waterways Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru – 560001, Chief Engineer, Communications and Buildings (South), Public Works Department, Bengaluru – 560001 and Asst. Commissioner (Admn), Greater Bengaluru Authority, N R Square, Annex 1 Building, Bengaluru 560002. The engineers mentioned in the attached list of this press release are notified to personally collect and submit their written comments within 15 days of the date of publication of this notification.

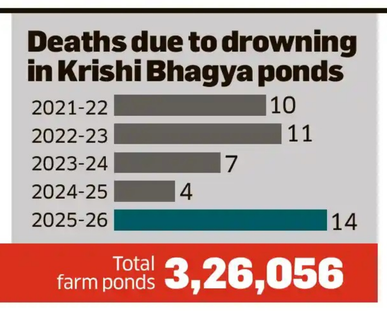
Sl. No	Engineer's name	Designation
Gandhinagar Division		
1.	Shri B. G. Prabhakar	E.E
2.	Shri K. R. Rangaswamy	E.E
3.	Shri K. S. Krishnaswamy	E.E
4.	Shri M. V. Prabhakar	E.E
5.	Shri N. K. Ranganath	E.E
6.	Shri N. P. Chandrasekhar	E.E
7.	Shri Prakash Kumar	E.E
8.	Shri H. Nagendrappa	E.E
9.	Shri Balaraj	A.E.E
10.	Shri B. J. Ramesh	A.E.E
11.	Shri B. J. Ramesh	A.E.E
12.	Shri Bettaswamayya	A.E.E
13.	Shri Chandrasekhar	A.E.E
14.	Shri Chamarajpal	A.E.E
15.	Shri D. R. Prabhakar	A.E.E
16.	Shri D. Hemant	A.E.E
17.	Shri Govindaraj	A.E.E
18.	Shri H. B. Prabhakar	A.E.E
19.	Shri H.N. Prabhakar	A.E.E
20.	Shri J. B. Narayana	A.E.E
21.	Shri J. T. Gowda	A.E.E
22.	Shri Jagadish	A.E.E
23.	Shri Jayanna Gowda	A.E.E
24.	Shri K. Ashok	A.E.E
25.	Shri K. J. Balakrishna	A.E.E
26.	Shri K. N. Prabhakar	A.E.E
27.	Shri K. S. Ashok	A.E.E
28.	Shri K.S. Ayyappa	A.E.E
29.	Shri Kanake Gowda	A.E.E
30.	Sri Krishnaswamy	A.E.E
31.	Shri M. B. Narayana	A.E.E
32.	Shri M. K. Nanjaiah	A.E.E
33.	Shri M. Prabhakar	A.E.E
34.	Shri M. Prabhu	A.E.E
35.	Shri Mallikarjunagowda	A.E.E
36.	Shri N. B. Narayana	A.E.E
37.	Shri Nagaraj	A.E.E
38.	Shri Nanjegowda	A.E.E
39.	Shri Narayana	A.E.E
40.	Shri Prabhakar	A.E.E
41.	Shri Prakash	A.E.E
42.	Shri Prakash Kumar	A.E.E
43.	Shri Prashant	A.E.E
44.	Shri Radhakrishnaiah	A.E.E
45.	Shri Ramachandraiah	A.E.E
46.	Shri Ramakrishnaiah	A.E.E
47.	Sri Ramalingaiah	A.E.E
48.	Shri Ramegowda	A.E.E
49.	Shri Ramesh	A.E.E
50.	Shri Ramesh Gowda	A.E.E
51.	Shri Ramaraju	A.E.E
52.	Shri Rangaiah	A.E.E
53.	Shri Ranganath	A.E.E
54.	Shri S. Mallikarjuna	A.E.E
55.	Shri Sawandaiah	A.E.E
56.	Shri Shivamallu	A.E.E
57.	Shri Shivaramegowda	A.E.E
58.	Shri Siddegowda	A.E.E
59.	Shri Srikanthegowda	A.E.E
60.	Shri Venkatesh	A.E.E
61.	Shri Y. B. Narayana	A.E.E
62.	Shri Y. B. Prabhakar	A.E.E
63.	Shri Yogesh	A.E.E
64.	Shri Yogesh Gowda	A.E.E
65.	Shri Abdul	A.E
66.	Shri B. Basavaraj	A.E
67.	Shri Chandrasekhar	A.E
68.	Shri D. Harish Kumar	A.E
69.	Shri D. Darshan	A.E
70.	Shri Devaraj	A.E
71.	Shri Dhani	A.E
72.	Shri Dharmaraj G Naik	A.E
73.	Shri Girigowda	A.E
74.	Shri Gangappa	A.E
75.	Shri Girish Gowda	A.E
76.	Shri Girishkumar Gudda	A.E
77.	Shri Govindaraju	A.E
78.	Shri H. M. Prabhakar	A.E
79.	Shri H. K. Srinivas	A.E
80.	Shri H. P. Nagaraju	A.E
81.	Shri Harish	A.E
82.	Shri Harish Gowda	A.E
83.	Shri Harishkumar	A.E
84.	Shri Javaregowda	A.E
85.	Shri Zakur Ali	A.E
86.	Shri Jayanna Gowda	A.E
87.	Shri Jayarame Gowda	A.E
88.	Shri Krishnakumar Gudda	A.E
89.	Shri Lokesh	A.E
90.	Shri M. Nagannavar	A.E
91.	Shri M. Krishna	A.E
92.	Shri M. Prabhu	A.E
93.	Shri M. Prakash	A.E
94.	Shri Mahadevappa Nagannavar	A.E
95.	Mr. Mahesh	A.E
96.	Shri Mohammad Zafar Sadiq	A.E
97.	Shri Murthy	A.E
98.	Shri N. K. Ranganath	A.E
99.	Shri N. Mahadevappa	A.E
100.	Shri N. R. Ramesh	A.E
101.	Shri N. R. Muniyappa	A.E
102.	Shri N. R. Mohan	A.E
103.	Shri N. R. Mahesh	A.E
104.	Shri Nagaraj	A.E
105.	Shri Nagesh	A.E
106.	Shri P. Ramdev	A.E
107.	Shri P. Ram Rao	A.E
108.	Shri P. Ramegowda	A.E
109.	Shri P. Ram Rao	A.E
110.	Shri Raviraj	A.E
111.	Shri Prabhakar	A.E
112.	Shri Palakshaiah	A.E
113.	Sri Prabhu	A.E
114.	Shri Prasad	A.E
115.	Shri R. Mahesh	A.E
116.	Shri R. Mohan	A.E
117.	Shri R. Ramesh	A.E
118.	Shri Rajasekharamurthy	A.E
119.	Smt Ramadevi	A.E
120.	Shri Ramraj	A.E
121.	Shri Ramegowda	A.E
122.	Shri Ramesh	A.E
123.	Shri Ramaraju	A.E
124.	Shri Rabindranath	A.E
125.	Shri Rabindranayak Dhani	A.E
126.	Shri Raviraj	A.E
127.	Shri Sadhik	A.E
128.	Shri Santosh	A.E
129.	Shri Shantaraju	A.E
130.	Shri Sivakumar	A.E
131.	Shri Shivamallu	A.E
132.	Shri Siddegowda	A.E
133.	Shri V. Mohan	A.E
Malleshwaram Division		
1.	B. N. Prasad	E.E
2.	Basavaraj	E.E
3.	Bairanarasimhaiya	E.E
4.	C. Basavaraj	E.E
5.	C. V. Venkatesh	E.E
6.	Chandrasekhar	E.E
7.	Krishnaswamy	E.E
8.	N. P. Chandrasekhar	E.E
9.	Maheshwar	E.E
10.	N. P. Chandrasekhar	E.E
11.	Prabhakar	E.E
12.	Prasad	E.E
13.	Bette Gowda T. M	A.E.E
14.	G. R Lokesh	A.E.E
15.	Gangadharaswami	A.E.E
16.	Jayanna Gowda	A.E.E
17.	K. G. Gangadharaswami	A.E.E
18.	K. G. Venkatesh	A.E.E
19.	Kumaraswamy	A.E.E
20.	M. K. Nanjaiah	A.E.E
21.	M. Manjunath	A.E.E
22.	M. Nagaraju	A.E.E
23.	M. Raju	A.E.E
24.	Mohankumar	A.E.E
25.	Muniraju	A.E.E
26.	N. Nagaraju	A.E.E
27.	N. Narayana	A.E.E
28.	Nagayya	A.E.E
29.	Parasurama	A.E.E
30.	Prabhakar	A.E.E
31.	Prabhu	A.E.E
32.	Prabhukumar	A.E.E
33.	Ranganath	A.E.E
34.	Rabindranath Talwar	A.E.E
35.	Srinivas	A.E.E
36.	T. N. Bettaswamayya	A.E.E
37.	Vishwanath	A.E.E
38.	Venkatesh	A.E.E
39.	Y. M. Muniraju	A.E.E
40.	Ashwath Reddy	A.E
41.	B. H. Parameshwara	A.E
42.	B. H. Parashuram	A.E
43.	B. R. Prasad	A.E
44.	B. V. Raghuveer	A.E
45.	C. Anand	A.E
46.	C. R. Mahesh Kumar	A.E
47.	C. R. Ramesh Kumar	A.E
48.	Channaveeriah	A.E
49.	D. S. Devaraju	A.E
50.	Devaraju	A.E
51.	G. L. Kashinath	A.E
52.	G. L. Kesavamurthy	A.E
53.	G. L. Krishnamurthy	A.E
54.	G. Manojkumar	A.E
55.	G. R. Krishna	A.E
56.	G. R. Kumar	A.E
57.	H. K. Srinivas	A.E
58.	H. P. Ramesh	A.E
59.	H. R. Giridhar	A.E
60.	H. S. Swamy	A.E
61.	H. Sivakumar	A.E
62.	K. S. Ashwath Reddy	A.E
63.	Kenchappa	A.E
64.	L. Thimmaraju	A.E
65.	Lakshmana Gowda	A.E
66.	M. Chandrashekhar	A.E
67.	M. J. Yogesh	A.E
68.	M. K. Harish	A.E
69.	M. N. Kishore	A.E
70.	M. R. Giridhar	A.E
71.	M. S. Revanna	A.E
72.	Muniraju	A.E
73.	N. Lokesh	A.E
74.	N. S. Prakash	A.E
75.	N. S. Revanna	A.E

Sl. No	Engineer's name	Designation
RajarajeshwariNagar Division		
1.	B. N. Kanakadasa	E.E
2.	Nagaya	E.E
3.	C. Umashankar	E.E
4.	N. Hiranayak	E.E
5.	N. K. Nayak	E.E
6.	N. K. Rama Reddy	E.E
7.	Parashuramegowda	E.E
8.	Ramereddy	E.E
9.	S. N. Shivaramegowda	E.E
10.	A. M. Shivashankar	A.E.E
11.	Byregowda	A.E.E
12.	D. Ramegowda	A.E.E
13.	G. R. Kumar	A.E.E
14.	G. R. Lakshmana	A.E.E
15.	G. R. Lokesh	A.E.E
16.	Govindaiah	A.E.E
17.	J. K. Lokesh	A.E.E
18.	Krishnanayak	A.E.E
19.	Kumaraswamy	A.E.E
20.	Prakash	A.E.E
21.	Ramegowda L. K	A.E.E
22.	Ravikumar	A.E.E
23.	S. Venkatesh	A.E.E
24.	Sivananda	A.E.E
25.	U.D. Ramesh	A.E.E
26.	V. Govindaraju	A.E.E
27.	V. Govindaraj	A.E.E
28.	V. Govindegowda	A.E.E
29.	Anand K	A.E
30.	B. P. Pramod	A.E
31.	B. R. Obaya	A.E
32.	Chayapathi	A.E
33.	Chimmanagowda	A.E
34.	Chinnamaregowda	A.E
35.	D. C. Somesh	A.E
36.	Dayananda	A.E
37.	Devraj	A.E
38.	Devaraju J. E	A.E
39.	Devaraju J. S	A.E
40.	G. S. Lokesh	A.E
41.	H. G. Purushottam	A.E
42.	J. C. Somesh	A.E
43.	Jawaregowda	A.E
44.	Jayakrishna	A.E
45.	Jayakumar S	A.E
46.	Jayalingappa	A.E
47.	K. B. Yogesh	A.E
48.	K. M. Kumaraswamy	A.E
49.	K. Suresh	A.E
50.	Kadiripati	A.E
51.	Keshav	A.E
52.	Kumar	A.E
53.	Linganna	A.E
54.	Lokesh	A.E
55.	M. B. Nagaraju	A.E
56.	M. J. Kumar	A.E
57.	M.T. Kumar	A.E
58.	Mahadev B. A	A.E
59.	Manjunath	A.E
60.	Manjunathaswamy S	A.E
61.	N. Chandrasekhar	A.E
62.	N. Kadaripatil	A.E
63.	N. R. Mahesh	A.E
64.	N. R. Muniyappa	A.E
65.	N. S. Revanna	A.E
66.	Nagaraju	A.E
67.	P. A. Raghavendra	A.E
68.	Paramesh	A.E
69.	Prasad	A.E
70.	Prasad J. E	A.E
71.	P. Prasad	A.E
72.	Prasad R	A.E
73.	Ramesh	A.E
74.	S. B. Somesh	A.E
75.	Saikumar	A.E
76.	Shik Mohmuddin	A.E
77.	Shivaprasad	A.E
78.	B. Shwetha	A.E
79.	Somashekhar	A.E
80.	Somesh	A.E
81.	Someshwar	A.E
82.	Udayakumar	A.E
83.	Vidya	A.E

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority

46 drown in Krishi Bhagya farm ponds since 2021

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS



Forty-six deaths have been reported across the state due to drowning in farm ponds built under the agriculture department's Krishi Bhagya scheme between 2021–22 and 2025-26. These artificial irrigation structures, built by farmers in remote areas, often lack fencing or safety nets, making them hazardous.

The issue came to the forefront recently when four children from a family drowned while swimming in a farm pond at Naganur village near Kembhavi in Yadgir district. In this case, the farmer had built the pond on his own without availing any subsidy under Krishi Bhagya.

Similar fatalities have also been reported in ponds constructed under other government schemes, where safety fencing is not mandatory and precautions are often neglected. However, there is no comprehensive data on total deaths across all schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the MGNREGA, and many such incidents have likely gone unreported.

The state government has built over 3.26 lakh farm ponds under Krishi Bhagya in two phases since 2014-15. The scheme is aimed at strengthening the farming community by increasing crop production and productivity in rain-fed areas by conserving rainwater runoff.

Fencing is compulsory for all the ponds built under the scheme. But farmers contended that the slippery nature of polythene sheets, which are used to prevent water percolation in ponds, makes it difficult for people to climb out after swimming, leading to the rise in drowning incidents.

The agriculture department has prescribed various measures to build farm ponds, including the installation of GI wire fencing around farm ponds, the display of signboards near farm ponds, provision for floating tubes tied with ropes as an emergency safety measure and public awareness.

However, farmers often neglect the fencing part after their investment dries up after pond c onstruction.

"I built a pond under the Krishi Bhagya scheme two years ago. Farmers get the subsidy only after completing the ground-level work by incurring their own expenditure. Most farmers avoid fencing due to financial problems after spending lakhs of rupees on constructing the pond. The use of slippery polythene liners in farm ponds has become a significant safety hazard in rural areas," said the farmer Shivaling Jhalakimath, Jogur village, Kalaburagi taluk.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangh vice-president Mallikarjun Satyampeth said shepherds and school children accidentally drown in farm ponds as farmers remove clay from the bottom of ponds to use as daub or adobe plaster to increase the moisture condition of house ceilings.

"Children enter farm ponds for swimming during the hot summer and die as they do not know the depth of these water bodies due to the removal of clay. There is a need to take protective measures like fencing. Creating awareness is essential," Satyampeth said.

Agriculture department officials maintained that proper awareness is being created to prevent drowning in farm ponds. "Various departments are constructing farm ponds under different schemes. But we build small farm ponds under Krishi Bhagya. We are providing a 40-50% subsidy for fencing and there is no shortage of funds for this purpose. Fencing is a mandatory component along with bunding, polythene lining, pump set and sprinkler under the scheme," said Dr G T Puthra, director, Department of Agriculture.

Pocso case against Harihar seer for sexual assault on boy

DAVANGERE, DHNS : A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act against Vachanananda Swami for the alleged sexual assault on a boy at a hostel run by Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeeth in Harihar.. The seer was removed as head of Panchamasali Peetha recently as he did not vacate the Shwasa Yoga Peetha in Bengaluru as promised earlier.

A 'zero' FIR registered at Lakshmeshwar police station in Gadag district, has been transferred to Harihar rural police station. The police, who have started the investigation, have recorded the statement of the mother of the 16-year-old boy, who filed a complaint.

Superintendent of police H T Shekhar said the mother had filed a complaint at Lakshmeshwar police station alleging that Vachanananda Swami was asking her son to massage his body. An investigation has been initiated and the boy's statement will be recorded.

The Gurupeeth Trust had removed Vachanananda Swami as head of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeeth in Harihar on April 13 after he failed to vacate the Shwasa Yoga Peetha in Bengaluru within the deadline set the trust. Amid this controversy, the seer was accused of getting massaged by boys in the hostel on the mutt's premises.

Three boys from the hostel had complained to the District Child Welfare Committee saying the seer beat them, abused them and had not given them medicines when they fell sick. A delegation led by the committee's president Manjula Mahesh visited the mutt on April 17 and recorded the statements of many people, including the seer.

The boys have been counselled in three stages and a report will be submitted to the Harihar rural police station soon, informed the committee's sources.

In the complaint, the boy's mother stated that the sexual abuse took place when he was in the hostel while studying in a government school at Hanagawadi in Harihar taluk from 2021 to 2024. According to the complaint, the seer used to enter the bathroom while the boys of the hostel were bathing and undress himself. The complaint stated he used to get massaged by the boys all over body, including his private parts. He sexually abused the boys by touching their private parts, she charged in her complaint.

झारखण्ड सरकार
आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, कल्याण कॉम्प्लेक्स, मोराबादी, राँची।

सूचना

मरङ गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना

अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग के छात्र–छात्राओं के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष–2026–27 हेतु मरङ गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना, 2020 (संशोधित, 2026) के अन्तर्गत दिनांक–20.06.2026 तक ऑनलाईन आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि निर्धारित है।

उक्त छात्रवृत्ति योजनान्तर्गत **इच्छुक छात्र–छात्राओं के लिए दिनांक–19.05.2026 को 01:00 बजे से 02:00 बजे अपराह्न तक Webinar का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।** जिसका लिंक निम्नवत् है:–

Video call link: https://meet.google.com/nna-jooo-yoj

PR 379661 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 26-27 (D)

(मो0 मुमताज अली अहमद)
उप निदेशक, आदिवासी कल्याण।

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF C.T.O
OFFICE OF THE ADG, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID), JHARKHAND, RANCHI.

CALL FOR INTERVIEW (CONTRACTUAL POST)
CID Invites applications for the contractual position of Chief Technical Officer

Post	No. of Post	Category	Remuneration (Max)	Last date of form submission
Chief Technical Officer (CTO)	01	Unreserved	Rs. 60,000/- per month	3rd June. 2026

Key Requirement:
- **Education**- B.E. in IT/CS/Equivalent or MCA. M. Tech in CS/IT/Information Security is desirable.
- **Experience**- Minimum 5 years in IT.
- **Technical Skills**- Proficiency in security/forensic tools, Programming/Scripting, data analysis (call logs/system logs), and hardware extraction. Must be conversant with networking protocol and wireless technologies.

Note: For detailed qualification and application procedures, please refer to the Jharkhand Police Official webportal at www.jhpolice.gov.in

Superintendent of Police,
Criminal Investigation Department,
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

PR 379652 (CID)26-27*D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, देवघर।

ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा संख्या:- **07/RIV/2026-27/RWD/EE/DEOGHAR** दिनांक :- **12.05.2026**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

पैकेज संख्या		कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख में)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में (रूपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेन्डर कॉल
RWD/EE/DEOGHAR/STPKG/04/2024-25	1	साप्तर पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ से जलैया होते हुए पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं0–3.700 कि.मी.)	14,12,58,500.00	चौदह करोड बारह लाख अनठावन हजार पॉच सौ रूपये मात्र।	15 महीना	पंचम
	2	पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ से बदिया होते हुए कल्याणपुर बुढ़ीबगीचा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.100 कि.मी.)				
	3	पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ पिपरा से जयंती नदी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.350 कि.मी.)				
	4	मधुपुर लहरजोरी मुख्य पथ से बोगैया होते हुए चेतनारी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.920 कि.मी.)				
	5	पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ उधोडीह से टटकजोरी भाया बेहरापहाड़ी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.490 कि.मी.)				
	6	चरघरा से घसको तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.200 कि.मी.)				
	7	जमा से जोगीडीह चरपा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.320 कि.मी.)				
	8	नावाडीह पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ से साहु टोला चेतनारी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.256 कि.मी.)				
	9	बनसीमी चौक से कासीटॉड तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.00 कि.मी.)				

(1). बेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **17.05.2026**
(2). ई0 निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि – **27.05.2026** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
(3). निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **29.05.2026** अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
(4). निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रा0 कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।

PR 379677 (Rural Development) 26-27 (D)

GAS TURBINE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT (GTRE)
(Government of India, Ministry of Defence)
Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
C.V. RAMAN NAGAR, P.O. No.9302, BENGALURU -560 093
E mail: hrd.gtre@gov.in
Phone No.: 080-25040894/25040895
FAX No. : 080-25241507

ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICE TRAINEES (2026-2027)

Advt. No. GTRE/HRD/026/2026-27 **Date: 08th May 2026**

GTRE invites applications for the engagement of Apprentice Trainees;

Sl. No.	Fellowships	No. of vcancies	Educational Qualifications
TECHNICAL STREAM (ENGINEERING)			
1	Graduate Apprentice Trainees	75	B.E/B.Tech./Equivalent
2	Diploma Apprentice Trainees	20	Diploma in Engineering
3	ITI Apprentice Trainees	25	ITI in various Trades
GEN(ERAL STREAM (NON - ENGINEERING)			
4	Graduate Apprentice Trainees	10	B.Com
		05	B.Sc. (Chemistry / Physics / Mathematics / Electronics / Computer Science)
		05	B.A. (Finance / Banking)
		05	BCA
		05	BBA
	Total	**150**	

Age Limit: Minimum Age - 18 years
Maximum Age - As per the provisions of the Govt. of India (Upper Age limit for Reserved Categories and Persons with Disability [PWD] is as per Govt. of India Rules in vogue).

• Date of walk-in interview: 6th June 2026 (Saturday at GTRE, Bengaluru)

For further details please visit website - **http://www.drdo.gov.in** under caption **"What's New"**

CBC 10301/11/0017/2627

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Renovation of washrooms and toilets at Metro stations from Central (KCEN) to Dakshineswar (KDSW) Station of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 1,11,72,299.17 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,23,500/-. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Date and Time of Closing:** 09.06.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.
Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2563-2026-(Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

भारतीय सेना में शामिल हों
JOIN INDIAN ARMY AS AN OFFICER
www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

अधिकारी प्रविष्टि

भारतीय सेना के 10+2 टी ई एस - 56 कोर्स (जनवरी 2027) के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। ऑनलाइन आवेदन www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर 13 मई 2026 से 12 जून 2026 तक खुले हैं। टी ई एस - 56 कोर्स के लिये JEE Mains 2026 अनिवार्य है। यह कक्षा 12वीं में पी सी एम (भौतिकी रसायन और गणित) में न्यूनतम 60% अंकों के मापदंड के अतिरिक्त है।

OFFICER ENTRY

Online applications are invited for 10+2 Technical Entry Scheme (TES-56) course (Jan 2027) of Indian Army. Online applications will open on **www.joinindianarmy.nic.in** from **13 May 2026** to **12 Jun 2026.** JEE (Mains) 2026 is mandatory for TES-56 Course. This is in addition to the criteria of minimum 60% marks in PCM (Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics) in Class 12th.

नोट :
1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेषन के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

Note :
1. **Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.**
2. **For detailed Notification, visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in**

CBC 10601-11-0003-2627

S.E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/17 **Dated : 12.05.2026**
TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Quantity	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	29263275	12.06.26	Maximum current relay complete Assembly (DLMCR).	112 Nos.	2,05,800/-
2.	29264974	15.06.26	Oil Cooling Blower Motor of continuous rating 30 KW (Centrifugal Design).	96 Nos.	2,07,400/-
3.	29263053	23.06.26	Set of Key Multiplier 1 & 2 etc.	61 Nos.	1,25,250/-
4.	29255126	01.07.26	Shaft Mounted ZR CU Stamping etc.	26 Nos.	3,26,960/-
5.	25261206	02.07.26	Brake Shoe Medium Phosphorous.	43230 Nos.	8,34,400/-
6.	25263665	03.07.26	Set of Bearing Bracket Assembly for Traction Motor.	90 Set	2,23,310/-
7.	25263133	06.07.26	Piston head disc for Brake Cylinder.	8038 Nos.	1,33,790/-
8.	29263152	06.07.26	Pinion Shaft 21 Teeth.	1866 Nos.	10,86,870/-
9.	29263076	07.07.26	Fire detection equipment.	100 Nos.	3,00,670/-
10.	29263173	08.07.26	Primary Spring outer F1 etc.	601 Nos.	1,20,490/-
11.	25261208	08.07.26	LED based Flasher System (Warning Light).	238 Set	1,45,480/-
12.	29263687	13.07.26	Lamp for Drivers etc.	235 Set	1,90,420/-
13.	29263028	14.07.26	Wiper Motor complete LH/RH for 3 phase Loco.	337 Set	1,67,460/-
14.	33263375	30.07.26	Control arm assembly right etc.	1540 Set	3,55,590/-
15.	33263072	15.07.26	Flexible Hose (500 mm) etc.	9900 Nos.	2,31,310/-
16.	33261479	09.07.26	Set of TPU rings for Primary Suspension etc.	3850 Set	8,77,710/-
17.	33263086	03.07.26	Secondary Vertical Damper for FIAT etc.	4660 Nos.	5,24,590/-
18.	33263048	30.06.26	Yaw Damper for FIAT etc.	4000 Nos.	7,88,150/-
19.	33263172	17.06.26	Brush holder assembly for Earthing etc.	2097 Nos.	1,32,340/-
20.	HB247241C	22.06.26	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of C-ARM Fluroscope with motorized mechanical motion etc. Pre-bid meeting is on 25/05/2026 15:30 hrs.	01 No.	3,16,220/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-162)**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn.
Tender Notice No. 09-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated : 08.05.2026

Name of work : Conducting Final Location Survey (FLS)/Detailed field survey for the following :
i. Final location survey for 3rd line between TVC-NCJ & Other New Line / Doubling / future projects including soil investigations
ii. Detailed field survey & preparation of drawing & documents including soil investigation for AFK-Sabari New Line
iii. Detailed field survey & preparation of drawing & documents including soil investigation for AMPA-TUVR doubling section under the jurisdiction of CAO/CN/ERS.
Tender Value : Rs. 3088.36 Lakhs
Bid Security : Rs. 61,76,700/-
Completion Period : 24 Months
Date and time of tender closing : 09.06.2026, 15.00 hrs.

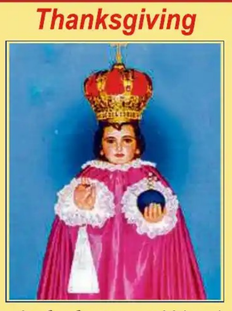
Complete details and tender document will be available at
https://www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Engineer / Construction,
Ernakulam Jn.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thanks for the favours received.
- Suhas

Thanksgiving



Thanks for favour and blessings received continuous to bless us.
- Shobha Cecilia & Jesuine Maria

PUBLIC NOTICE / CAUTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that **M/s. AgriGold Projects Limited** had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated 27.09.2012 a Registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20.10.2012 with **Sri B. Radharamana, Smt. B. Radha and Sri B. Ravi Shankar** and a Registered General Power of Attorney dated 20.10.2012 with **Sri B.Ravi Shankar** in respect of the below schedule property.
Under the said agreements, rights relating to development, possession, conveyance and dealing with the schedule properties were created in favour of **M/s. AgriGold Projects Limited and its nominees.** The said Registered Joint Development Agreement and Registered General Power of Attorney registered and subsisting as on date.
It has come to our notice that the land owners and/or certain third parties are attempting to negotiate, alienate, create encumbrances, enter into agreements of sale, Joint Development Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and/or otherwise deal with the aforesaid schedule properties contrary to the existing contractual and legal obligations.
Therefore, the General Public, prospective purchasers, developers, investors, financial institutions, banks and all concerned are hereby cautioned and advised NOT TO purchase, acquire, enter into any transaction, advance any monies, create any charge, accept any security, or otherwise deal with the below schedule property or any portion thereof from the land owners namely **1)Sri B. Radharamana 2) Smt. B. Radha and 3) Sri B. Ravi Shankar** or through anybody claiming under them, without obtaining prior written consent and confirmation from **M/s. AgriGold Projects Limited** / its authorized representatives.
Any person dealing with the below the schedule property shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and consequences. Any such transaction shall be subject to the rights, claims and legal proceedings arising out of the aforesaid agreements and related disputes. All concerned are hereby requested to take notice accordingly.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of lands situated at Mayaganahalli and Dharapura Villages, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District, Karnataka, comprised in Survey nos. 29/7 , 28/2 , 29/4 , 29/10 , 29/11 , 29/12 / 29/2 , 28/2 of converted land admeasuring Acres. 18.34 Guntas including along with othervarious Survey Numbers admeasuring approximately Acres 250-00 Guntas, together with all rights, easements and appurtenances attached thereto, more fully described in Annexure-I and Annexure-II to the MOU/JDA/GPA.

Kasi Viswanadham RankeyReddy Advocate, Flat No.504, 5th Floor, Sri Nilayam Enclave Apartment, Opp.Metro Pillar No.1070, Near New Science College Road, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-073. **PH:9491556078**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK FOR CROWD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurament website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. : SUR/L/T/2025/35, Name of work:-** Electrical General service portion of work in connection with Crowd Management System at Solapur, Kalaburgi, Wadi, Latur, Osmanabad, Kurduwadi, Harangul & Pandharpur Road Railway Station of Solapur Division. **Estimated cost:-** ₹4,71,48,002.1/-, **Bid Security:-** ₹9,43,000/-, **Completion Period:-** 12 Months, **Validity of offer:-** 60 Days, **Date & time of tenders closing** on website: **08/06/2026 at 15.00** hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

ANJ-20 **Sr DEE (G)**
TRAVEL SAFELY, AVOID FOOTBOARD TRAVELLING

UPGRADATION OF NETWORK FOR MODERNISATION

Tender Notice No. : KIR-N-2026-K-7; **Dated:** 11-05-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Sl No.1; Brief Description of Work :** Upgradation of Network for Modernisation of PRS Network in Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹3,79,23,723.23/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹7,58,500/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **02-06-2026**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto **15:00** hrs. on **02-06-2026** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (S&T), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

EXAM FIASCO: 'Guess paper' matched questions worth 600 marks; Congress alleges BJP link

Nashik to Sikar: How NEET paper was sold for lakhs

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR
JAIPUR

The 'guess paper' at the centre of the NEET-UG exam leak had been in circulation for some time, it has emerged. It was sold as an original paper to a person in Rajasthan's Sikar by another man in Haryana. Of the actual entrance paper, 45 questions in the chemistry section and 90 questions in the biology section matched those in the 'guess paper', complete with answers. Together, these accounted for around 600 marks out of the total 720.

The Congress alleged that two brothers — Dinesh Binwal and Mangilal from Rajasthan's Jamwa Ramgarh — who have been picked up by the CBI and were instrumental in selling the 'guess paper' in Sikar, are BJP workers. The party claimed they have close links with BJP leaders, including state education minister Madan Dilawar.

Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot also posted about Binwal's connection with the BJP.

Gehlot asked if Binwal's involvement was the reason why the state government tried to suppress the paper leak issue and not register an FIR.

The NEET-UG 2026 entrance exam held on May 3 was cancelled following allegations of paper leak, affecting more than 22 lakh students.

The leak first came to light in Sikar on May 4, a day after the exam. On May 2, the 'guess paper' had gone viral among students on WhatsApp and Telegram groups, reportedly sold in paid groups such as one called 'Private Mafia'.

Sources said the paper was sold for as much as Rs 5 lakh and as little as Rs 30,000.

Sources said the 'guess paper' was first sent to a PG girls' hostel owner by his son, a medical student in Kerala. The father then circulated it among students in the hostel and shared it with a coordinator at a coaching institute.

The coordinator discovered that several questions matched the actual paper and alerted the PG owner, who, fearing trouble, approached the local police station.

The police, however, dismissed the allegation.

The PG owner later emailed the 'guess paper' directly to the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the exam.

The NTA admitted that the integrity of the test had been compromised.

Once the leak was confirmed, investigators traced its trail to Nashik in Maharashtra. The paper was found with Shubham Kharinar, 30, an Ayurveda medical student, who is suspected to have obtained the question paper days before the exam.

He allegedly bought a physical copy of the paper for Rs 10 lakh, converted it into a soft copy, and sold it to leak mafias in Gurgaon for nearly Rs 15 lakh.

From Gurgaon, the paper spread nationwide via WhatsApp and Telegram. In Rajasthan, the 'guess paper' first surfaced in Jamwa Ramgarh.

Sikar has earned the tag of 'Next Kota' owing to its high NEET success rate over the past two years.

LEAK TRAIL

'Guess paper' originated in Kerala
A Rajasthan student pursuing MBBS in Kerala received the material from a friend and shared it with contacts in Sikar.

Shared through hostel network
The student forwarded the PDF to friends and a hostel owner in Sikar, who further circulated it among NEET aspirants.

Password-protected PDFs circulated
Question papers containing 45 chemistry and 90 biology questions were shared through a group named "Private Mafia".

Leak spread across Rajasthan
The material reached students in Sikar, Jaipur and nearby areas before the May 3 NEET-UG exam.

Hostel owner alerted police
After the exam, the hostel owner informed police and the NTA that a "question bank" had been widely distributed.

SOG probe led to CBI takeover
Rajasthan Special Operation's Group matched the leaked PDF with the actual paper, questioned 150+ people, detained suspects, and later handed over the probe to the CBI.

SOURCE: PTI

Accused claims 'bigwigs being protected'

One of the accused arrested by the CBI in Jaipur in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak on Wednesday alleged that bigwigs involved in the case were being protected, reports PTI.

The CBI produced the accused before a judge.

One of the accused claimed that "bigwigs were being protected while ordinary people are harassed

NEET-UG should be abolished: TN CM Vijay

CHENNAI, DHNS: Continuing with the stand taken by his predecessors, Tamil Nadu's new Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday demanded that NEET-UG examination to be dispensed with and state governments are allowed to fill seats in medical and dental colleges on the basis of Class 12 marks of students.

In a statement, Vijay said the cancellation of the NEET-UG exam by the NTA has shattered the hopes of lakhs of medical aspirants across the country and recalled that this was not the first time NEET-UG has been compromised.

Vijay regretted that another paper leak has taken even place after a High-Level Committee of Experts under Dr K Radhakrishnan submitted 95 comprehensive recommendations for reforms.

C Joseph Vijay

"Despite all this, within two years, another paper leak has occurred and the examination has been cancelled. This is conclusive proof of flaws and structural flaws in the national-level exam. The Government of Tamil Nadu, has been consistently and unanimously opposing NEET-UG since its very inception," the chief minister added.

Vijay said the introduction of NEET-UG has severely disadvantaged the students from rural areas, Government schools, Tamil medium backgrounds, and socio-economically disadvantaged families.

"The Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates the state long pending demand to abolish NEET-UG and permit the States to fill all seats under the state quota in MBBS, BDS, and AYUSH courses on the basis of Class 12 marks," he added.

NEET-UG is a highly emotive issue in Tamil Nadu, with over two dozen children taking the extreme step of ending their lives for the fear of appearing for the exam or cracking it.

Parl panel warned NTA months before leak

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A parliamentary committee recently noted that the National Testing Agency's (NTA) performance in recent years has been poor, with paper leaks or other controversies reported in at least five of the last 14 exams it conducted. As the exam body came under scrutiny, the CBI reached its office on Wednesday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, had, in a report six months before the NEET-UG paper leak, urged the NTA to "get its act together".

The panel noted that in the past year, three examinations — UGC-NET, CSIR-NET and NEET-PG — had to be postponed, while the previous NEET-UG saw paper leaks and the CUET (UG/PG) results were delayed. In JEE Main 2025, held in January, at least 12 questions were withdrawn due to errors in the final answer key of the engineering entrance exam.

"The committee reiterates that the NTA's performance in the last year has not inspired much confidence ... The committee observed that such instances do not inspire confidence among examinees in the system.

"The committee therefore recommends that the NTA quickly get its act together so that such instances, which are otherwise fully avoidable, do not occur in future," the report said.

Indian Youth Congress activists raise slogans during a protest following the alleged leak of the NEET-UG 2026 paper in New Delhi. PTI

November report

In its report submitted in November last year, the panel noted that organisations or state governments had blacklisted some firms involved in paper-setting, administration, and correction, yet continued to secure contracts.

"The committee is of the view that such blacklisted firms must not be engaged for any entrance test by the NTA or the state governments," it said.

Reviewing the NTA's finances, the panel reported that the agency collected around Rs 3,512 crore and spent Rs 3,064 crore, leaving a surplus of Rs 448 crore over the last six years. It recommended that this be used to build the agency's capacity to conduct tests itself, or to strengthen regulatory and monitoring mechanisms for its vendors.

Medical body moves SC over systemic failure in NEET-UG exam

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A medical association has approached the Supreme Court alleging "systemic failure" in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2026 exam for admissions in undergraduate medical courses and seeking reforms in the test system following the cancellation of the exam over irregularities.

The NEET (UG) 2026 exam held on May 3 by the National Testing Agency (NTA) was cancelled on May 12 amid allegations of paper leak, which is now being probed by the CBI.

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), through lawyer Tanvi Dubey, has moved the court seeking a complete overhaul of the national testing framework, including the replacement of the NTA with a more robust and autonomous body.

The plea sought the replacement of the NTA with a "technologically advanced and autonomous body" to restore the credibility and integrity of medical entrance examinations.

It also cited reports claiming that "guess papers" circulated on encrypted messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram matched more than 100 questions from the actual examination paper.

It also urged the court to constitute a high-powered monitoring committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and comprising cybersecurity and forensic experts, to supervise the re-conduct of the NEET-UG 2026 examination.

Indian LPG tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The LPG tanker MV Sunshine successfully transited the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and is en route to India, marking the 15th such vessel to be safely evacuated from the Persian Gulf amid ongoing regional tensions.

According to official updates, the ship is receiving comprehensive support from multiple agencies, including the Indian Navy, to ensure its secure passage. Marine tracking data confirms the vessel has moved into safer waters toward the Arabian Sea, bound for Indian ports.

Marine tracking data confirms that the vessel has moved into safer waters toward the Arabian Sea, bound for Indian ports where it will discharge its LPG cargo.

India has been actively coordinating the safe return of multiple stranded or India-bound vessels from the Persian Gulf.

Iran slams UAE as West Asia conflict casts shadow on BRICS meet

Lack of consensus surfaces again over the war

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The West Asia conflict is likely to cast a shadow over the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi on Thursday and Friday, with Iran accusing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of stalling a consensus within the bloc about the war launched by Israel and the US.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will host the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrived in New Delhi late on Wednesday, although it was not clarified who would represent the UAE at the meeting.

Araghchi will have a bilateral meeting with Jaishankar and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who himself will travel to Abu Dhabi and meet UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, upon his arrival to attend the BRICS meeting, in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Tehran's relations with Abu Dhabi turned sour after Iran responded to Israel and the US' attacks by targeting the UAE and other neighbouring nations, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, whom it accused of facilitating the offensives against it.

"We have not attacked neighbouring countries," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi told journalists here. "They handed their territories to the US to launch an attack on us. We never insisted that Arab countries should be condemned as they allowed their military bases to the US."

The lack of consensus within the BRICS had also come to the fore when the deputy foreign ministers of its member nations, as well as their special envoys for West Asia, met in New Delhi last month.

The meeting had ended with India releasing a "chair's statement", reflecting that a consensus on a joint outcome document could not be reached.

The statement noted that the participants had "expressed deep concern" over the recent conflict and "shared views and assessments on the situation". It avoided naming Iran or condemning Israel and the US' initial attacks.

Iran has been nudging India, the current chair of the BRICS, since the early days of the conflict to get the bloc — seen as a grouping of developing nations and often criticised by US President Donald Trump — to condemn Israel and the US' offensive.

The BRIC comprised Brazil, Russia, India, and China until its first expansion in 2010-11, when it was renamed BRICS and included South Africa.

It added Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Argentina, Saudi Arabia and the UAE as new members in 2023-24. Argentina withdrew its application for BRICS membership after Javier Milei became president in December 2023.

Saudi delayed its process of joining the bloc, which is perceived as a counterweight to the G7. Indonesia joined the BRICS in January 2025.

Will welcome India's peace initiative, says Iran

NEW DELHI, PTI

Iran will welcome any initiative by major powers like India to bring peace to West Asia, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Wednesday.

He also said that the country was developing a new service-and-payment-based framework for the passage of merchant vessels through the Strait of Hormuz in line with international norms.

Kazem Gharibabadi

Gharibabadi told a select group of journalists that a demand by "one member country" of the BRICS to condemn Iran has prevented the grouping from reaching a unified position on the regional conflict, an apparent reference to the United Arab Emirates.

"We want India's BRICS chairship to be successful. It is not a good approach to send a signal to the world that the BRICS is divided. One country is insisting on condemning Iran," he said.

Gharibabadi, delving into historic, cultural and civilisational relations between India and Iran, said Tehran welcome any initiative by New Delhi to bring peace and stability to West Asia that will be beneficial for all the countries in the region and beyond.

"India has always supported peace. It is in favour of peace and stability in the region. We will welcome whatever initiative India takes for peace," he said.

The deputy foreign minister also responded to a question on Pakistan's role as mediator between Iran and the US by saying that Tehran would welcome all such diplomatic efforts. "Pakistan is only a facilitator. We will welcome all such initiatives."

Committed to Chabahar port project

The deputy foreign minister said Iran is committed to the Chabahar port project and it is for India to decide how to move forward in view of the US sanctions on the project.

Gharibabadi also said Iran allowed several Indian vessels to transit through the Strait of Hormuz and some more ships could be granted permission to head home.

31 killed as strong storm, rains lash several UP districts

BHADOHI/FATEHPUR (UP), PTI: At least 21 people were killed on Wednesday after a powerful storm accompanied by heavy rains caused widespread damage in Bhadohi, Budaun, Fatehpur and Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

The officials said at least 16 people have lost their lives in Bhadohi, nine in Fatehpur, five in Budaun and one in Sonbhadra district.

In Bhadohi, Additional District Magistrate Kunwar Virendra Kumar Maurya said reports were coming from several areas about uprooted trees, electricity poles and damaged houses. He said restoration and rescue operations faced difficulties because mobile networks were disrupted due to the storm.

Maurya said sub-divisional magistrates, tehsildars, other district officials and police were inspecting and carrying out relief work across all three tehsils of the district.

In a post on X, Bhadohi Police said that 16 people died in separate incidents in the district due to a dust storm, while six were injured, of whom two are serious. In Fatehpur, nine persons were killed, and 16 were injured in storm-related incidents.

NIA arrests 'narco-terrorist' after extradition from Portugal

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested wanted narco-terrorist Iqbal Singh alias Shera after successfully securing his extradition from Portugal.

He was taken into custody by an NIA team at the Delhi airport immediately after he arrived from Portugal, to where he had absconded in 2020. His successful extradition and arrest come as a major shot in the arm for the NIA's fight against Pakistan-backed narco and cross-border terrorism, officials said.

During the investigation, the NIA found Shera to be a key conspirator and handler of an India-based narco-terror module engaged in smuggling heroin from Pakistan.

A native of Punjab's Amritsar, Shera had allegedly masterminded a conspiracy to smuggle narcotics from Pakistan into the border state, the probe agency said.

CBSE Class 12 results out; pass rate dips

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared the Class 12 results on Wednesday, with the pass percentage dipping from 88.39% in 2024-25 to 85.20% in 2025-26 — a fall of three percentage points.

Of the 17,80,365 students who registered, 17,68,968 appeared, and 15,07,109 passed. This was the first exam in which answer sheets were evaluated using the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system.

Girls once again outperformed boys, with a wider gap this year. Girls recorded a pass percentage of 88.86%, while boys stood at 82.13%. Region-wise, Thiruvananthapuram posted the highest pass rate at 95.62%, followed by Chennai (93.84) and Bengaluru (93.19), while Prayagraj recorded the lowest at 72.43%.

Transgender candidates achieved a 100% pass rate.

Students pose for a photograph after the declaration of CBSE Class 12 results in Ranchi on Wednesday. PTI

Among institution types, Kendriya Vidyalayas posted the best performance at 98.55%, followed closely by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas at 98.47%.

The examinations were conducted across 19,967 schools and 7,573 centres, with over 5.06 lakh invigilators. With evaluation carried out through the OSM system, Examination Controller Sanyam Bharadwaj said that 98.66 lakh answer books were digitally assessed by more than 70,000 evaluators.

Students whose results have been declared in the compartment category, or those wishing to improve in one subject, can appear for the supplementary examination on July 15.

Temple visits not must to be a Hindu: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that Hinduism is a way of life, and it is not essential for a Hindu to visit a temple or perform rituals to remain within the faith.

"People will light a lamp inside their hut. That is all," the court remarked, emphasising the simplicity and inclusivity of practice.

A nine-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and comprising Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan, and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths, including the Dawoodi Bohras.

Professor G Mohan Gopal, appearing for one of the intervenors, said nobody had ever asked him whether he accepted the Vedas as the highest authority, though he added that he had the "highest respect" for the Vedas.

He questioned whether it could be assumed that all people classified as Hindus accept the Vedas as the ultimate authority in spiritual and philosophical matters.

"To accept the Vedas, no one asked me, and no one told me that. I have the highest respect for the Vedas, but is it a fact that all those classified as Hindus today accept the Vedas as the highest authority in all spiritual and philosophical matters?" he asked.

"In this way, we were not subsumed into religion; we were consumed by it. From a constitutional point of view, we also have to consider the choice and the agency," he added.

CHOICE AND AGENCY

- Nine-judge bench hears petitions on religious freedom
- Debates Hindu identity, highlights constitutional choice and agency
- Underscores simplicity of practice, says 'lamp in a hut is enough'

On this, Justice Nagarathna said, "Hinduism is also called a way of life. It is not necessary for a Hindu to mandatorily visit a temple or perform rituals. He or she still remains a Hindu, because it is a way of life."

Gopal said it would be a huge relief if this came across in the reference judgment.

Justice Nagarathna also said that even people who do not visit temples or maintain a dedicated prayer space at home may still identify as Hindus because "their psyche is such that they are Hindus".

"People will light a lamp inside their hut. That is all," the CJI said.

The bench observed, "Nobody can come in the way of people having their faith."

Gopal said Article 25 protects such freedom, but our jurisprudence does not.

He contended that the priest is exercising his freedom of conscience, and the devotee is exercising her freedom of conscience. "The question is, how do you resolve it?". Referring to an American judgment, Gopal said one principle is that freedom of religion cannot be exercised to deprive someone else of their civil liberty.

Govt extends CBI chief's tenure by a year amid Rahul's dissent

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Praveen Sood will continue as CBI director with the Union government on Wednesday, once again extending his tenure by one year beyond May 24.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), based on the recommendations of the selection committee, approved Sood's extension for a period of one year beyond May 24, 2026, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

Praveen Sood

This is his second extension. Sood was the Karnataka Director General of Police when he took over as CBI Director on May 25, 2023, for a period of two years. He was given a one-year extension last year.

The appointment came on the recommendation of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led selection committee, which consists of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi as members.

Rahul had submitted a dissent note on the process of selection of the CBI director and said he did not want to be part of a "biased exercise"

SC to hear plea on 'killings' of Bengal BJP workers in July

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to hear in July a plea seeking a probe into the alleged killing of three BJP workers in West Bengal following the 2018 local body elections in the state.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi was hearing the matter filed in 2018 by senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, who was also appearing for the brother of one of the deceased workers.

"What remains in this matter now," the bench asked Bhatia during the hearing.

Bhatia referred to the changed political circumstances in West Bengal.

"Substantial change or sea change," the bench observed.

Suvendu Adhikari took the oath as West Bengal's first BJP chief minister after the BJP secured 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule in the state.

During the proceedings, Bhatia asked the court to list the plea in July to enable him to seek further instructions.

"You should take a proactive step in ensuring that things move in the right direction," the bench observed while posting the matter for hearing in July.

EPS sacks rebels backing CM Vijay

Action follows 25 legislators supporting TVK despite whip

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

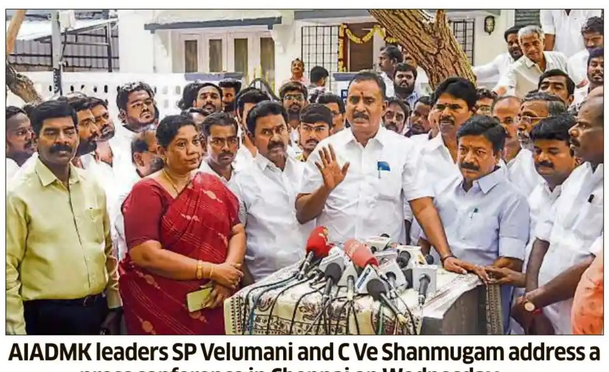
Cracking the whip, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Wednesday sacked rebel MLAs, including former ministers S P Velumani, C Ve Shanmugam and C Vijayabaskar, from their party posts, hours after 25 legislators voted in favour of the TVK government despite the party "whip" asking them to vote against.

Palaniswami, in a tactical move, removed several senior leaders, including former minister and his close aide P Thangamani, who could not perform well in the recently-concluded Assembly elections.

Through this action, he made the removals look like a result of the election debacle rather than one against the rebels. The former CM also quickly appointed replacements for the posts, sending a strong message against the rebels.

The action came even as everyone expected Palaniswami to move Speaker J C D Prabhakar, seeking the disqualification of the 25 MLAs who voted in favour of the Vijay government.

Reacting sharply to Palaniswami's action, Shanmugam mocked their removal, saying the only work that EPS has done as party chief was to sack people from their positions. "He had paused his work due to elections, and he has resumed. He has sacked 26 people from their posts. Have you heard of any other leader who is on a sacking spree?" he asked and claimed that Palaniswami doesn't have the authority to remove them.



AIADMK leaders SP Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam address a press conference in Chennai on Wednesday. PTI

Ministerial berth

At a press conference hours before he acted against them, Palaniswami was non-committal on the action against the "rebel" MLAs. But he alleged that they voted for TVK only based on an offer from the ruling party that six of them would be accommodated in the ministry, and about 16 MLAs would be made heads of government-run enterprises. He maintained that all newly-elected legislators elected him as the leader of the legislature and party, and only the whip appointed by him has real powers.

However, the rival camp hit back, saying Palaniswami does not have the power to appoint office-bearers of the legislature party, as only the elected legislators can take those calls. Though former minister C Ve Shanmugam and S P Velumani claimed they were the "original AIADMK", they also did not reveal whether they would move the Speaker seeking the disqualification of the 22 MLAs who allied with Palaniswami.

They also struck a conciliatory note by admitting that Palaniswami was still the party chief. Velumani said Sasikala and T T V Dhinakaran should be brought into the party and asked Palaniswami not to keep expelling leaders as per his wish.

It appeared like the two factions were getting ready for a long political battle by not moving the Speaker, whose decision could only prompt the aggrieved group to knock at the doors of the judiciary, leading to a protracted legal battle.

Experts said the rebel MLAs could attract disqualification as the Supreme Court in the Shiv Sena had ruled that what matters is the political party, not the legislature party.

Assam clears draft UCC; task force set up for jobs

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

THE CODE

- Cabinet to set up a task force for providing 2 lakh government jobs in the next five years
- The proposal to make the BJP's manifesto basis for policy formulation for new govt approved
- Tribal population – both in the hills and in the plains – would be exempted from the purview of the UCC

The first Cabinet meeting of the new government in Assam on Wednesday approved a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) draft and decided to set up a task force for providing 2 lakh government jobs in the next five years — the BJP's two major promises in its Assembly election manifesto.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal to make the BJP's Sankalp Patra the basis for policy formulation for the new NDA government in the next five years in the state.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters here after the Cabinet meeting that the UCC Bill would be tabled in the Assembly on May 26 for approval.

He said the state's tribal population — both in the hills and in the plains — would be exempted from the purview of the UCC. All religious rituals, faiths, and traditional practices would also be kept out of the UCC.

"Under the UCC, there will be a prohibition on polygamy, a curb on live-in relationships and love-jihad. Registration of marriages and divorce will be made compulsory, and the right of inheritance of properties for girls will be ensured. The UCC in Assam will be by and large in sync with the one passed in Uttarakhand, Goa, and Gujarat," said Sarma.

"We made the decision about the UCC in the first meeting of our Cabinet because we promised it prominently in our Sankalp Patra. We want to convey how serious we are about fulfilling our manifesto promises," he said.

Sarma said a task force headed by the chief secretary would submit a report within the next three months about the modalities for providing government jobs to 2 lakh people in the next five years.

"The task force will hold consultations with all government departments, government-run corporations, and agencies, autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, and the universities while formulating the modalities," he said.

The BJP-led government, with Sarma as the CM, provided 1.65 lakh government jobs between 2021 and 2026.

Cong to announce Kerala chief minister pick today

Majority of party leaders, MLAs favour Venugopal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Kerala will have to wait one more day to know who its new chief minister will be, with the Congress saying all discussions have been completed but pushed the announcement to Thursday.

The decision to announce the name a day later came soon after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi held a final round of discussion here on Wednesday evening.

"As authorised by the members of the Congress Legislature Party in Kerala, the High Command of the Congress has completed all discussions. The decision on who will be the next CM of Kerala will be announced tomorrow (Thursday)," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told reporters after the 40-minute meeting.

It was not immediately clear why the announcement had been delayed to Thursday, even as the High Command has come to a conclusion on the name for the top post in the state, for which there are three contenders — KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala.

While the leadership had held discussions with the three contenders on Saturday, a decision had eluded them, following which Rahul held deliberations with working presidents and former Kerala state presidents, a majority of whom supported Venugopal, who is favoured by the majority of MLAs.

However, sources claimed AK Antony, K Muralidharan and VM Sudheeran have supported Satheesan, who has managed to get public support. Reports from Kerala suggested that Antony told the central leadership that it is better to avoid bypolls in Kerala. Venugopal is a Lok Sabha MP, and choosing him would mean bypolls to the Assembly and his Lok Sabha seat.

A large number of supporters had gathered at Satheesan's residence in Ernakulam's Aluva, anticipating an announcement in his favour, but were asked by his aides to disperse, saying a decision would be announced only on Thursday morning.

There have been claims by the camps of both Venugopal and Satheesan about the chances of their leaders, while the Chennithala camp is hopeful to benefit from the fight between the two.

CLP meet today

A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Kerala will be held on Thursday at 1 pm in Thiruvananthapuram, reports DHNS.

Sources said that the meeting would decide the future course of action for government formation. Soon after the CPL meeting, a meeting of the Congress-led UDF's constituents would be held.

Amid CM limbo, Wayanad posters target Rahul, Priyanka

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the indecision over Kerala chief minister entered its tenth day on Wednesday, posters targeting Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi appeared in Wayanad.

The posters, written in English, criticised the All India Congress Committee leadership amid reports that AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal was emerging as the frontrunner for the top post.

"Mr Rahul and Priyanka, you forgot Wayanad. You won't win here again. KC might be your bag bearer, but the people of Kerala will never forgive you," read the posters displayed near the Congress district committee office.

Rahul won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat twice with a thumping majority, while Priyanka contested the bypoll following Rahul's resignation in 2024 and made her electoral debut with a huge margin of over four lakh votes.

Rahul Gandhi with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. PTI FILE

Resentment among Congress coalition partners surfaced further on Wednesday, with RSP leader Shibu Baby John strongly criticising the party. "We have been telling the Congress to ensure that the sheen of the huge mandate given by the people is not lost. I am limiting my words as we have to work together," he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) state leadership meeting on Wednesday decided to wait for the AICC's decision. Party leader PK Kunhalikutty said the IUML had entrusted its supremo Panakkad Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal to take further steps once the AICC's decision was announced.

With the CM announcement expected soon, supporters of VD Satheesan, Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala are preparing for celebrations.

Large numbers of party workers and local Congress leaders have been gathering at Satheesan's residence in Aluva, Kochi, while many of Chennithala's supporters have been waiting eagerly at his house in Thiruvananthapuram.

Party workers have also assembled at the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in Thiruvananthapuram, as well as at Congress offices across the state.

Puducherry L-G K Kailashnathan administers the oath of office to NDA leader N Rangaswamy as the Chief Minister of Puducherry on Wednesday. PTI

PM's appeal about wise spending, not austerity: Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Wednesday clarified that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal is not about spending less but about spending more wisely by reducing fuel consumption, avoidable dependence on imported goods, and foreign-currency-intensive services.

Official sources emphasised that the Modi government is not cutting capital expenditure, welfare spending, or subsidies in any manner.

While chairing a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Modi urged his colleagues to curtail unnecessary expenditure, particularly on petrol and other resources, in view of the ongoing West Asia crisis.

He is learnt to have asked ministers to focus on cost-cutting measures and consciously reduce the use of resources.

Sources said the Prime Minister also directed ministers to reduce the size of their official convoys and limit non-essential foreign visits. Several ministers have already announced steps in this regard.

Modi has also asked for electric vehicles to be included in his own convoy wherever possible, without making fresh purchases.

Government sources stressed that the PM's call to conserve fuel, adopt work-from-home wherever feasible, and reduce avoidable foreign exchange outflows does not amount to "austerity measures," a term that carries a negative economic connotation.

Modi during a rally organised by the Telangana BJP in Hyderabad on Sunday urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption and spend more wisely amid the West Asia crisis. He suggested several practical steps, including reducing petrol and diesel consumption, using metro rail services in cities, carpooling, greater adoption of electric vehicles, and working from home to conserve foreign exchange.

Home Minister Amit Shah curtailed the number of vehicles in his convoy. PTI

PM's convoy size slashed

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption and spend more wisely amid the West Asia crisis, his own official convoy has been significantly downsized, with several Governors, BJP chief ministers, and senior leaders adopting similar measures, reports DHNS.

The PM's convoy was downsized for his recent domestic visits. The reduction was done while maintaining essential security components as per the SPG protocol.

Amul, Mother Dairy raise milk price by Rs 2 per litre

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Citing the increase in the overall cost of operation and production, Amul and Mother Dairy on Wednesday hiked milk prices by Rs 2 per litre.

The price increase by India's two largest organised milk retailers will add to food inflation, which has risen in recent weeks due to the conflict in West Asia.

"The price hike is being done due to the increase in the overall cost of operation and production of milk. ...Our member unions have also increased farmers' procurement price by Rs 30 per kg fat, which is 3.7% increase over May 25," the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk and other related products under the brand name 'Amul', said.

Meanwhile, Mother Dairy said, "The revision has been necessitated in view of the sustained increase in farmer procurement prices, of around 6% over the past one year".

GCMMF said the price increase is approximately 2.5-3.5% per litre, which is lower than the average food inflation.

(*With PTI inputs*)

India gets back 2 stolen idols from US; 3rd to return in 2028

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Somaskanda idol

India has received two stolen idols from the Smithsonian Museum in the United States — a 16th-century Vijayanagara-period idol of Saint Sundarar with Paravai and a 12th-century Chola-period Somaskanda idol.

A third idol — a Chola-era Shiva Nataraja circa 990 CE — has been formally handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) but will remain in the US till 2028.

US law enforcement agencies have handed over more than 600 art Indian-origin objects to India's Embassy in Washington, which will be transported back to the country shortly, said Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters at the National Museum in New Delhi, Shekhawat described the three statues' repatriation from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art as "a significant milestone in India's ongoing efforts to bring back stolen cultural treasures and strengthen ethical museum practices globally".

The two bronze idols, the Somaskanda (Shiva and Uma) and the Saint Sundarar with Paravai, arrived in New Delhi on May 12.

The Shiva Nataraja, originally belonging to the Sri Bhava Aushadesvara Temple in Thanjavur district and photographed there in 1957, will be repatriated after the conclusion of its current display in the Smithsonian . India has agreed to a three-year loan arrangement for the sculpture.

Cabinet okays Rs 37,500-cr coal gasification scheme

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a Rs 37,500 crore incentive scheme to promote surface coal and lignite gasification projects, aiming to reduce India's heavy dependence on imported LNG, urea, methanol and other key products.

The scheme will support the gasification of 75 million tonnes of coal and is expected to attract investments of around Rs 2.5 to 3 lakh crore.

"An outlay of Rs 37,500 crore has been kept for this scheme... projects will be put up for gasifying 75 million tonnes of coal," Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw highlighted India's vast coal reserves of 401 million tonnes, sufficient for the next 200 years, and stressed the need for self-reliance amid the current geopolitical situation.

"We have to take all decisions to become Atma Nirbhar," the minister said.

Coal gasification involves converting coal into synthesis gas (syngas), which can be used to produce methanol, fertilisers, hydrogen, chemicals, and other value-added products. The initiative is expected to significantly cut imports—currently, over 50% of LNG, 100% of ammonia, and 80-90% of methanol are imported—and shield the country from global price volatility.

The scheme will provide a financial incentive of up to 20% of the cost of plant and machinery. Incentives will be disbursed in four equal instalments linked to project milestones. Selection will be done through transparent competitive bidding.

Key caps under the scheme include Rs 5,000 crore for any single project and Rs 9,000 crore for any single product (except synthetic natural gas and urea). Rs 12,000 crore for any single entity/group across all projects.

MSP for 14 crops hiked

The Centre on Wednesday announced a rise in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy by Rs 72 to Rs 2,441 per quintal for the 2026-27 kharif marketing season (September-October), with significantly higher increases for pulses, oilseeds, and cotton to encourage crop diversification and reduce import dependence. The CCEA approved the MSPs for 14 kharif crops ahead of the sowing season, which begins in June with the arrival of the southwest monsoon.

INDIA'S FIRST

Semi-high-speed rail corridor gets nod

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is set to get its first semi-high-speed railway corridor, with trains capable of running at up to 220 kmph, after the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a new double-line project in Gujarat on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Railways' Semi High-Speed Double Line project will connect Sarkhej in Ahmedabad to the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) at an estimated cost of Rs 20,667 crore.

Once the 134-km railway line is completed, the journey time between Sarkhej and Dholera will be reduced to around 34 minutes, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the media.

The project will be Indian Railways' first semi-high-speed corridor developed entirely with indigenous technology. It is expected to serve as a benchmark for the phased rollout of similar high-speed rail networks across the country, Vaishnaw said.

The broad-gauge corridor has been designed for a maximum speed of 220 kmph and an operational speed of 200 kmph. The new section will provide faster and seamless connectivity between Ahmedabad, Dholera SIR, the upcoming Dholera Airport and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC).

Dholera SIR is being developed as a greenfield industrial smart city and is envisioned as a global hub for manufacturing, innovation and urban living.

Aircraft crashes in Baramati

MUMBAI, DHNS: A trainer aircraft crash-landed near the Baramati airfield following a technical snag on Wednesday morning, once again raising concerns about small airports handling non-scheduled operations and flight training activities.

The cadet, who was the sole person on board the aircraft, is safe. The incident occurred at 8.50 am when a Tecnam P2008JC aircraft, crashed-landed near Gojubavi village.

'Bulldozer justice': Kashmir anti-drug demolition drive sparks controversy

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Jammu and Kashmir administration's aggressive anti-drug campaign has sparked a debate in the Valley after authorities demolished several houses and commercial structures allegedly linked to drug peddlers, with political and religious leaders questioning the manner in which the drive is being carried out.

The demolitions, undertaken as part of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's intensified campaign against narcotics, have been projected by the administration as a strong message against the growing drug menace in the Union Territory.

Officials said the campaign targeted properties allegedly raised through proceeds from narcotics trafficking or constructed illegally on state land. In recent weeks, police and civil authorities demolished multiple structures in Srinagar, Anantnag and other districts, claiming they were connected to notorious drug peddlers.

The administration's crackdown has found support among many residents concerned over the alarming rise in drug addiction among Kashmiri youth. Addressing recent public meetings, Sinha described narcotics as a major threat to society and vowed strict action against drug networks operating in J&K.

However, concerns are emerging over what critics describe as "bulldozer justice".

J&K Health Minister Sakina Itoo recently cautioned against demolishing homes over allegations of drug peddling, saying such actions could adversely affect families and innocent people living in those houses.

Hurriyat Conference chairman and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also weighed in, calling the anti-drug campaign a "welcome step" but cautioning that the crisis should not be viewed only through a "law and order prism" marked by "headline-grabbing arrests and property confiscation".

Legal experts said authorities have powers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to seize or attach properties linked to proceeds of crime. However, they stressed that demolitions must comply with municipal laws and constitutional safeguards.

Government of India

Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority

National Highway-69, Chintamani - AP Border Section (Chitamani Bypass Section)
National Highways, PWD Compound, K.R. Circle, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3D(1) and (2) of the National Highways Act, 1956 (Act 48 of 1956) and the Amendment Act of 1997, the Government of India has issued a final 3(D) land acquisition notification via its Gazette Notification No: S.O. 761(E) dated 16.02.2024, SO 1803(E) dated: 26.04.2024. This notification has been issued for the acquisition of lands **in Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, Karnataka State, for the purpose of construction (widening to 2/4 lanes, and others) of Chintamani Bypass from Km. 0.00(428.880) to Km. 15.400 (444.010) of National Highway No. 69.**

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3G(1), (2), (4), (7)(a)(b)(c)(d) of the National Highways Act, 1956, and Schedule 1 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 (Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act), the award of compensation has been determined for the lands specified in the schedule.

In connection with this, multiple intimation letters have already been issued by this office to the khatedars of the survey numbers mentioned in the notification, instructing them to submit the required documents and claim their compensation. However, the under mentioned landowners have not yet submitted their documents to this office and have not claimed their land compensation till date.

Therefore, it is hereby informed through this notice to present all necessary certified documents to this office within 15 days from the date of issuance of this notification and receive the compensation. Failing which, having no other alternative, the amount will be deposited ex-parte in the jurisdictional District Court / appropriate legal action will be initiated.

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer
and Competent Authority
National Highway-69, Chintamani - AP Border Section (Chitamani Bypass Section)
National Highways, PWD Compound, K.R. Circle, Bangalore.

DISTRICT : CHIKKABALLAPURA			TALUK: CHINTAMANI
Sr. No.	**Survey No.**	**Area (in Local Unit) (Guntas)**	**Name of Land Owner**
Hobli : Ambajidurga			**Village: Guttahalli**
1	48	0-07	S Muniraju S/o Srinivasareddy
2	20/4	0-02 ½	S Muniraju
3	55/2	0-28	S Muniraju S/o Srinivasareddy
Hobli : Ambajidurga			**Village: Doddakondrahalli**
1	69	0-00 ½	Munivenkataswamy S/o Papanna, Narayanappa S/o Chennappa, T. Krishnappa S/o Munitirumallappa, Doddakempa S/o Munishaminaika, Lagumanaika S/o Muninaika, Ramakka W/o Venkataramana.
2	76/2	0-04 ½	Beerappa S/o Chikkamuniyappa
3	96/2	0-02 ½	Subbanna S/o Kaniyappa
Hobli : Kaivara			**Village: Doddihalli**
1	64	0-00 ¼	Digagoru Subbaiah, Munibairappa S/o Late Nanjundappa, Ravanamma S/o Doddagurappa, Muniyamma W/o Late Munibairappa (As per JMC/RTC: Narayanamma W/o Late Nallegowda)
2	46/4	0-00 ¼	Gowramma W/o D N Venkateshappa
Hobli : Kasaba			**Village: Munuganahalli**
1	62/1	0-00 ½	K N Nagaraju S/o Nareppa
Hobli : Kasaba			**Village: Chatlapalligadda**
1	39/1 39/2	0-15 ¾ Regular 0-09 ½ Additional	Krishnamurthy S/o Yakkala/Suryanarayana Shetty, G. N. Ravindranath S/o Narayana Shetty, Government, S. N. M. Bhanumathi W/o Late S. N. Mohan Raj, M. N. Mohan Raju, M. N. Munisami Reddy S/o M. Narayana Reddy, M. N. Venkatareddy S/o M. Narayanareddy, M. N. Sadashiva Reddy S/o M. Narayana Reddy. M. N. Munishamireddy S/o Late M. Narayanareddy, Sadashivareddy S/o M. Narayanareddy, Krishnamurthy S/o Yakkala S. N., M. Bhanumathi W/o Late S. N. Mohan Raj.
Hobli : Kasaba			**Village: Madikere**
1	166/6	0-11	S Ramanareddy S/o Subbareddy
2	205	0-00 ¼	K. Rajashekharachari S/o Late Ramamurthachari, T. R. Ramachari S/o Chikka Narayanachari.
3	214/1A	0-14	M Venkatesh S/o Munireddy
	214/1B	0-02	Sri Mithun S/o Late Nagabhushana Y. K.,
	214/2	0-31 ½	R. Venkateshappa S/o Ramappa, R. Shankarappa S/o Ramappa, Y. Krishnappa S/o Y. Ramappa, Y. Krishnappa S/o Y. Ramaiah, K. B. Usha W/o Late Nagabhushana Y. K., Y. Krishnappa S/o Y. Ramaiah, R. Venkateshappa S/o Y. Ramappa, R. Shankarappa S/o Y. Ramappa, R. Srinivasa S/o Y. Ramappa.
4	209/1	0-13 ½	M. Gopalareddy
5	209/15	0-00 ½	C. Srinivasa Reddy S/o Thimmachowdappa B.P
6	208/4	0-01 ½	M. N. Nagesh S/o M. R. Nanjayya Shetty
Hobli : Kaivara			**Village: Mylapura**
1	37/1	0-12	Munivenkatappa S/o Narayanappa
2	178/1	0-08 ½	Munivenkatappa S/o Narayanappa
3 4 5	39/1 39/2A 39/2B	0-29	Manjula W/o Lokesh
6	40/2	1-29	Narayanaswamy
7	40/1		M. N. Kempaiah S/o Narayanappa
8	41	1-01	Ramegowda S/o Venkateshagowda
9	54/2	0-21	Munivenkatappa S/o Narayanappa
10	54/3		
11	54/4		
12	42/1	0-01 ½	M. E. Krishnappa S/o Eerappa
13	42/4	0-12 ½	M. N. Kempaiah S/o Narayanappa
14	47/2	0-23	Dyavamma, Ramachandrappa Subbanna, M. N. Kempaiah
15	45/1	0-18 ½	Dasappa, Venkatarayappa and others.

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. (KUIDFC)

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038.
Website: www.kuidfc.com e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/Admn/DEO & JEA/ Tender/CR-16/2026-27 Date: 13.05.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

KUIDFC Bengaluru invites tenders for hiring **Data Entry Operator** and **Junior Executive Assistants** service for a period of **2 years** from the reputed manpower supplying Agency / Firm. The tender document will be available on e-Procurement portal of GoK (i.e., https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) **from 14.05.2026 to 30.05.2026** up to **17.30 hrs.** The bidders can upload the proposals only through e-Procurement portal. For any further notification please refer e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
General Manager (ADMN)

DIPR/CP/628/MAA/2026-27

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha,

(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division,
T. Narasipura, Mysuru District - 571124
Ph.No. 08227-261362 E-Mail eekcdtnp@yahoo.co.in

Short Term Tender Notification No. 04/2026-27, Dated: 11.05.2026

Itemwise tender is hereby invited in KPP-Portal by the Executive Engineer, Kabini Canal Distributory Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore from eligible PWD Department registered contractors for Construction of Box lining from CH 3.870 KM to 4.550 KM of D-38 of KRBC Work. All the required documents are to be uploaded along with the tenders. amount put to tender for the work is **Rs.418.27** Lakhs Last date for tender queries / clarification is **16.05.2026** till 4.00 p.m., last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **18.05.2026** till 5.30 p.m. Date of opening of technical bids is **20.05.2026** at 11.00 a.m. Date of opening of Financial bids is **25.05.2026** at 11.00 a.m. For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through kpp-portal by logging in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division, T. Narasipura.

DIPR/DDMYS/168/KSMCA/133/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Bommanahalli & Arakere Division,
Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068.

No. BSCC/EE/B&AD/TEND-04/2026-27 Date: 13-05-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Single Cover Tender (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, South Zone-2, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in GBA or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Establishment of temporary monsoon control room in Singasandra Sub-division (Ward No. 65, 66 - each Ward Rs. 2.50 lakhs)- 2nd call.
	Estimated Amount : **Rs. 5.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 6,250/-.** Category: **CAT-I.** Period of completion : **120 days.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.05.2026. (2)** Last date for submission of tenders : **21.05.2026 upto 4.00 pm. (3)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **22.05.2026 after 4.30 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Bommanahalli & Arakere Division, BSCC

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Assistant Director, 4th Floor, Annex-3, Narasimharaja Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: AD(AH)/(BCCC)/PR-26/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2026

RFP Notification
(Through GOK KPPP only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

BCCC invites tender from eligible bidders for Short-Term request for proposal for providing short term **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTION OF ENTRANCE FEES AND SLAUGHTER FEES FOR SMALL ANIMAL AT CITY MEAT PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING CENTRE, USMANKHAN ROAD, BCCC BY INTERESTED NGO/FIRM/ORGANISATIN** Bengaluru Central City Corporation on Outsourced Basis.

Following is the Events of Tender process:

1.	Tender Reference No.	BCCC/2025-26/SE0126/CALL-3
2.	Date of Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document from KPP Portal **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	from 13.05.2026 onwards
3.	Tender Inviting Authority	Chief Veterinary Office (Animal Husbandry) BCCC.
4.	Tender Accepting Authority	Commissioner, BCCC.
5.	Last Date and Time for uploading of Online Queries in KPP Portal	15.05.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.
6.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	15.05.2026 at 12:30 p.m. at the following venue: Office of AD, BCCC, Annex 3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
7.	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in KPP Portal	21.05.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.
8.	Date and Time Opening of RFP in KPP Portal	22.05.2026 at 5:10 p.m.
9.	Place of Opening of RFP	Online at KPP Portal
10.	Address for Communication	Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. Phone: 9242260699 E-mail: adahbccc@gmail.com

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BCCC.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Post Box No 8005, C V Raman Avenue, Bengaluru - 560080.
Telephone: 080-22661203, 22661202, 22661200. Email: execsec@ias.ac.in

IASc No.: IASc/Fin/Inv/2026-27/01 Date: 12 May 2026

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Indian Academy of Sciences, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from Nationalized Banks and Government-approved Scheduled Commercial Banks that are regulated by RBI for investment of surplus funds in Term Deposits/Fixed Deposits as per Government of India norms. Interested banks may visit the Academy website **https://www.ias.ac.in/About_IASc/Tender_notices/** for detailed terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, and submission schedule. Last date for receipt of offers is **22/05/2026 (12 Noon)**.

Sd/-
Executive Secretary

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

6th Floor, 2nd Stage, M.S. Building,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001.

No. ED/56/UBV/2026(Part-1) Date: 13.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites application for the selection of Vice –Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore as per section 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act 2000 from eligible and distinguished Academicians/Professors. Applications should be submitted within 30 days (including general holidays) from the date of this advertisement to the "Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, 6th Floor, Gate No. 03, Room No. 601 (R & I Section), M S Building, Bengaluru 560001". Soft copy of the application in PDF format should be sent to email : **busearchcommittee2026@gmail.com.** The application form is available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Secretary to Government
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/630/Zen/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Established under the State Financial Corporations Act 1951
HEAD OFFICE : KSFC Bhavan, No.1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Near Cant. Railway Station, Bengaluru 560001, Ph: Gen 22263322, Dir 22352946
E-mail: pers.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in Web : www.ksfc.karnataka.gov.in

Notification No: KSFC/HO/P-96/2026-27 Date:13.05.2026

Advertisement For Contractual Engagement of retired officers of KSFC/SIDBI/Nationalised Bank / NBFC of Govt. of India and Govt. of Karnataka as Consultants / Assistant Consultants

Karnataka State Financial Corporation (KSFC) invites applications from the retired officers of KSFC/SIDBI/ Nationalised Banks / NBFCs of GoI and GoK to work as 'Legal Consultant', 'Technical Consultant', 'Finance & Accounts Consultant' and Assistant Consultant on contract for a period of 1 YEAR initially and extendable by one more year subject to requirement of KSFC and the performance. Prescribed application form can be downloaded from the KSFC website **https://ksfc.karnataka.gov.in.** The duly filled in applications along with the application fee of **Rs.500/-** should be submitted on or before **05th June 2026 by speed post or in person** addressed to the Managing Director at the above address. (Even existing Consultants working in KSFC need to apply).

For detailed notification and for other details visit the KSFC website **https://ksfc.karnataka.gov.in.** Applications received after the due date will not be entertained.

Sd/-
Managing Director

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

ಸಂತೆಬೀದಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವಾರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಅಂಚೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560090.
ದೂ: 080–28395098, Email: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com,
Website: https://chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/02/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಡೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. **ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–05–2026 ಮತ್ತು ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–05–2026.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

DIPR/CP/YC/637/2026-27

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2026-2/332 Date:12.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under various head of account grant for 11 works (Indent No: 20501,25353,25351,24347, 25289, 25113, 25768, 25662, 25662, 25814, 25816) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.150.00 lakhs Maximum 1171.00 lakhs Total Rs:4890.23 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Pre Bid meeting date and time Date : 25.05.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 (2) Last Date for information any quarries Date : 30.05.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 (3) Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 01.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 (4) Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 02.06.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 (5) Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 03.06.2026ರ ಸಮಯ 16.02 Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.95:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

DECCAN HERALD
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Paper leak and a credibility test

The cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is another blot on the record of the National Testing Agency (NTA), responsible for the conduct of some of India's most important examinations. That many questions in a 'guess paper' were found among questions in the NEET-UG examination held on May 3 makes it more serious than the partial cancellation of the test in 2024. The handwritten 'guess paper' is likely to have reached thousands of candidates. The leak was detected only days after the test, raising the question of whether similar leaks have gone undetected in the past. While the new dates for the test are awaited, the schedules for student counselling, admissions, and the commencement of courses will be impacted.

The NEET covers about 1.3 lakh medical course seats. About 22 lakh students took the test after months of preparation, which takes a financial, physical, and psychological toll on them. The cancellation and the subsequent retest will cause trauma to many candidates and involve extensive wastage of resources. When the NTA was created in 2017, it was envisioned to improve the examination system and make it a unified, national platform without the unevenness that marked state-level admission procedures. However, the agency has faced questions regarding its processes, charges of paper leaks, and ranking-related disputes. Though the government has assured that the system would be strengthened and safeguards put in place, the paper leak shows that no lessons have been learnt.

The NEET cancellation points to a massive institutional failure that calls for urgent, structural reform

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has commenced an investigation, and multiple arrests have been made. Many questions need answering. Where and how did the leak take place? Why did the safeguards fail? After the 2024 incident, an expert committee headed by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan was constituted to reform the NEET system. Were the committee's recommendations, submitted in October 2024, implemented? Accountability must be established at all levels for this massive institutional failure, and action should be taken against everyone who played a role in it. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, too, cannot escape responsibility for this debacle. An examination of this scale presents a major challenge because it involves simultaneously holding the test in more than 5,000 centres. But the country has the requisite technical and logistical competence. This failure has occurred at the human level. Fixing the system is crucial to prevent future breaches and restore the credibility of the test.

GBA polls: SEC's retreat is worrying

Elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have come to resemble a mirage – forever visible on the horizon, yet perpetually out of reach. Deferred by successive state governments for over five years, the polls now face another postponement, precisely when public expectation of an imminent election date was at its highest. This involves a grave constitutional failure for which the State Election Commission (SEC) must bear considerable responsibility. Based on the Commission's own undertaking, the Supreme Court had set June as the deadline for holding polls, after repeated extensions. In a recent affidavit before the Court, the Commission stated it was prepared to proceed and that the state government was seeking an extension. Subsequently, the Commission indicated that polling would be held between mid- and late-June. The final electoral rolls have been published, and ward delimitation has been completed. There is thus no substantive impediment to holding the elections.

What followed is, therefore, all the more troubling. In a volte-face, the SEC has now aligned itself with the state government in seeking additional time from the Court, citing the ongoing national Census, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and staff constraints. This reversal inflicts serious damage on the credibility of an institution constitutionally mandated to function with independence and impartiality. An election commission that retreats under apparent governmental pressure does not resemble an autonomous authority. The SEC's obligation was to inform the Court whether it was prepared to conduct the elections. It had no business parroting the government's position. This invites uncomfortable questions about institutional integrity. The SIR argument, in particular, is unconvincing. Electoral roll revisions are a continuous administrative process; if their completion becomes a precondition for elections, urban local body polls could be deferred indefinitely.

The Commission's position now aligns with the government's reasoning to further defer the elections

Meanwhile, Bengaluru suffers the consequences of prolonged "officer raj". Without an elected civic body, accountability has weakened, governance has become increasingly opaque, and citizens have been denied democratic representation in decisions affecting roads, drains, waste management, and urban planning. The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that SECs carry a constitutional duty to conduct local body elections on schedule. If the Commission itself undermines that obligation, the foundations of grassroots democracy are imperilled. The Court must treat this apparent institutional collusion with the seriousness it warrants. Constitutional mandates cannot be subordinated to administrative convenience or political calculation. It is even more disturbing when the very institution entrusted with safeguarding electoral democracy appears complicit in its subversion.

STRANDED CITIES

Urban chaos: Too many captains, no clear command

As multiple agencies govern India's cities in silos, planning and accountability become the casualty

PRIYANKA TIBREWAL AND SRIKARA PRASAD

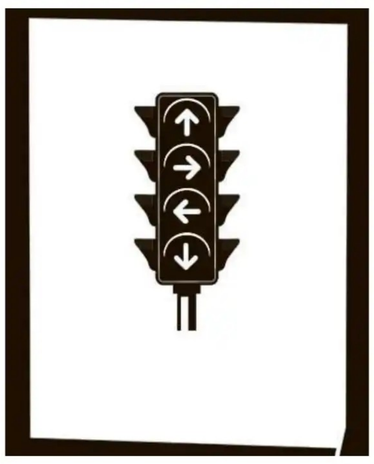
As the Indian Premier League (IPL) season advances, we hear a lot about captaincy and its significance in match results. This analogy holds a lesson for our cities, where every day is matchday – where we, the people, face off against potholes, jammed roads, dirty air and water, harsh climate, and unaffordable housing. Who is the captain leading us?

According to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (74th CAA), the captaincy lies with city governments or Urban Local Governments (ULGs) elected by the people. In practice, however, our cities don't have just *one* captain. Instead, we have multiple captains, controlling different aspects of the city, often implementing different strategies, but playing on the same field. The result? Chaos, lack of accountability, and urban challenges remain unresolved. With ULGs in many states heading into elections this year, voters must understand this problem better.

According to the 74th CAA, ULGs must have complete power over 18 core city functions. These range from simple street lighting to complex functions like economic and social development, urban planning, land-use regulation, and ecological protection. But, as of 2026, this is far from true. Instead, these powers are split across 20-39 unique agencies performing core city functions. These include ULGs, parastatal authorities (like corporations established for specific functions such as electricity, water supply, or metro-rail), state government departments, Special Economic Zones (SEZ) authorities, cantonment boards, and other agencies.

Each agency performs a specialised role, but in the process, fragments the city into smaller pockets of control. The jurisdictions of these agencies often overlap, and they tend to operate in silos. Take the example of a simple road in Bengaluru. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is responsible for building and maintaining local roads and civic services, but the water supply and sewerage lines that run beneath the roads are handled by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), while electricity lines are managed by BESCOM. At the same time, planning decisions are determined by agencies like the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). As a result, even one stretch of road is simultaneously governed by many independent authorities. Effectively, the city is run not by one institution but by *every* agency that has jurisdiction over it.

Apart from overlapping jurisdiction, this fragmented governance creates a fundamental problem: the absence of a single point of accountability. Agencies operate based on their own mandates, with little coordination. Each manag-



es a part of the system, but no one is responsible for the whole. The larger goal of creating a liveable city is lost in the process.

For example, congestion, a hallmark in most of our cities, is an outcome of multiple decisions – how land is planned for infrastructure and utilities, where jobs and housing are located, how public transport is designed and integrated, whether streets are safe and accessible for pedestrians, and how traffic is managed.

In Bengaluru, land-use plans that decide where people live and work are prepared by the BDA and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning. Public buses are operated by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), while metro systems are developed and run by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Roads and street infrastructure were managed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), traffic is handled by the Bengaluru Traffic Police and permits for auto-rickshaws and cabs are issued by the state transport department.

When different agencies plan and operate pieces of the system in isolation, the city grows without alignment between where people live, where they work, and how they travel. Commercial and business centres – where most jobs are – come up in areas that are not well served by public transport. Roads are widened without improving bus systems or ensuring pedestrian access for seamless connectivity to surrounding neighbourhoods. The result is predictable: more reliance on private vehicles, longer travel distances, and worsening congestion.

No public accountability

In principle, ULGs should have the biggest say in how to spend money on the city, as they are directly elected and closest to citizens. However, Janaagraha's analysis of public spending in Bengaluru shows that BBMP, the erstwhile city government, only accounted for 20% of all public spending. Parastatals and state departments controlled and spent the remaining 80%, and they do not answer to the BBMP or to the citizens. These authorities offer limited transparency – disclosing, on average, only 34% of relevant financial information.

Fragmented ownership is a key reason our cities remain stuck with poor liveability. There is a systemic disconnect between responsibility and authority: ULGs are held responsible for service delivery without having control over key functions, while parastatals exercise significant power without accountability. Addressing this is essential for meaningful urban reform; the 74th CAA already shows us the way.

ULGs must be given complete authority and autonomy over city functions. Accountability and transparency should be strengthened, and all agencies performing urban functions must be answerable to the ULG. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) can incentivise state governments to give ULGs the fiscal and organisational capacity they need to fulfil this role. MoHUA can also establish a clear timeframe and roadmap for transitioning powers to ULGs.

If our cities are to win against mounting challenges, they need a capable captain, clearly defined roles for their players, and frictionless coordination between them. Without that, we might see brilliant individual performances, but they will not translate into sustained improvements to our daily lives.

(The writers are senior associates, Urban Policy, at Janaagraha)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Lost on tracks, found in kindness

Time flew, weaving an ineffable bond between two strangers

NAVARATNA LAXMAN

She had come to the Durg (Chhattisgarh) railway station to see off her colleague by the morning Bombay Howrah Express. As she started walking out of the platform after the train pulled away, she suddenly felt the tiny, trembling hands of a child hugging her from behind. Too scared even to talk, the six-year-old cried inconsolably, pointing at the train fast moving out of sight.

Part of a large, affluent wedding party, this child had alighted from the train with her peers to check out the toy shop on the platform. Too busy frolicking, singing *antakshari* and teasing the bridegroom-to-be, the elders did not even notice that she had been left behind when the train chugged out of the station. Obviously her absence on the train may have probably been noticed when the train was a pretty good distance away. And now the little one was hugging this unknown angel of a lady imploringly. In the situation, handing over the girl to the railway police or to the station master would have been easier for the woman, but her inner voice would not allow the little bud to face the ordeal all by herself. Those days, mobile phones were unheard of, and there was no way to contact her parents whatsoever. She took the child in her arms and pacified her with a motherly caress.

Being in the service of the Bhilai Steel Plant, she was to travel to Nagpur by the afternoon train to attend an official assignment. She decided to cancel it. She apprised the station master of the situation and requested him to contact the next halting station of the train and arrange to get the child's parents by the earliest available return train. That would take at least five-six hours, however, enough for this guardian angel to cheer up the child with the magic of her love and compassion.

They exchanged stories and riddles and played hide-and-seek on the platform. The little one's favourite foods and snacks were arranged from a nearby restaurant. Time flew, weaving an ineffable silken bond between the two of them, as if they had known each other for years. Their mutual attraction grew stronger by the hour, as the woman silently thanked God for not leading the child to evil elements instead of her.

This enchanting interlude was interrupted by the shrill whistle of the approaching train that carried the child's parents. They alighted from the train and raced towards the stationmaster's office, where they saw something unbelievable. Their 'lost' child was hugging this unknown fairy and imploring the parents to allow her some more time with her newest friend. Tears of joy flowing in profusion from their eyes spoke volumes of their overwhelming gratitude.

Restoring the little one to her parents, our angel—none other than my better half—walked out of the station, her heart filled with a kind of divine wealth far beyond the reach of other earthly riches.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students deserve a leak-proof system

The NTA, formed in 2017, which is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting nationwide fair and leak-proof competitive examinations, has failed in its mandate. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, in its report, says there were issues in five of the 14 examinations conducted by the NTA. It is a shame. Such being the case, why should we have an agency at all? The government should take immediate measures to set the system right and restore the confidence of students. It is absurd that nobody is held responsible for the leaks in the system despite recurring incidents of malpractice. The government is answerable to the 22 lakh students who have spent years preparing for the exam.

S Sundara Pandian, Bengaluru

Public suffers

The editorial, 'Democracy loses in delayed mandates' (May 13), sums up the impact of delayed judiciary procedure on the general public. In the absence of elected representatives for extended periods of time, the people are left with no other choice but to run from pillar to post to express their grievances and hope for the best. In the instant case, though the dispute is between two individuals, the public suffers. The current scenario pertaining to Bengaluru's civic polls is a classic example of defying the court mandates and its impact on the citizens of Bengaluru. It is time that the judiciary prioritised disposing of cases to ensure social justice.

H V K Bhatta, Bengaluru

Curb capital flight

I refer to 'After assurances, the burden of austerity' (May 13). The disparity between the government's call for public austerity and the continued extravagance of our leadership is a glaring democratic injustice. It is hypocritical to ask the common man to tighten his belt while lavish official expenditures and foreign tours remain unchecked. Directives to avoid gold purchases or cancel travel threaten the livelihoods of millions of workers in the tourism and jewellery sectors that are already reeling from economic instability. The RBI data confirms that the true driver of dollar outflows is not the casual traveller or a middle-class wedding but high-net-worth individuals investing in foreign assets. It is clear that capital flight, not leisure, is the issue.

S Padmanabhan, Kochi

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

After Edappadi K Palaniswami assumed responsibility, the defeats have continued and our setbacks have become more severe with every election...

C V Shanmugam, AIADMK leader
(Defending the breakaway from AIADMK to support TVK)

The lust and hunger? The thirst for power?
And thus it is brewed, clearly, the heart's
deadliest poison to integrity.

Criss Jami

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

How heat plans fail informal workers

The response must go beyond public-health metrics and compensate for income losses caused by extreme heat

SAGARI GUPTA

Delhi and Chennai both released heat action plans for 2026 with the same headline features: misting stations, cool rooms, public-health advisories, and targeted outreach to outdoor workers. Both plans identify informal workers as a high-risk group. Neither plan has made a street vendor's right to free drinking water enforceable. That gap is the defining failure of India's approach to climate adaptation.

Delhi's Heat Action Plan, coordinated by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, covers misting at bus depots, cool rooms at hospitals, increased ORS supply, and time-band restrictions on outdoor work. It is among the more detailed plans any Indian city has produced. Against this is set one statistic: 89%. That is the share of street vendors in Delhi who had no access to free water while working, according to WIEGO's 2026 policy brief, based on surveys of nearly 500 vendors across 17 markets. Not one of those markets had a functioning municipal water point. During the 2025 heatwave, 90% of vendors cut working hours and 96% reported a sharp fall in customers.

A vendor working ten hours on a 43° day does not need a misting station three blocks away. She needs water where she stands. Delhi's plan acknowledges the problem and does not solve it.

Tamil Nadu went further. In October 2024, it declared heatwaves a state-specific disaster, enabling relief through the State Disaster Response Fund and *ex gratia* payments of Rs 4 lakh to families of the dead. It was a meaningful, institutional step. It also exposed how narrow that step is against the scale of the problem.

A 2025 study by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation covered 3,300 women across 15 districts in seven states; 70% of women in high heat-vulnerability districts reported fatigue, dizziness, dehydration, and gastrointestinal illness during peak summer months; 97% reported income losses between April and June, averaging more than Rs 1,500. Agriculture, construction, and informal service work account for roughly 70% of female employment.

Tamil Nadu's classification compensates families after death. It does not address the wage loss, the skipped meal, or the child pulled from tuition because the household cannot absorb the shortfall.

Research by Saudamini Das and E Somanathan, published in *Environmental Research Letters* in 2024, tracked nearly 400 informal workers in two Delhi slums in summer 2019. Every 1° Celsius rise in wet-bulb temperature reduced net earnings by 19%. Workers averaging Rs 268 per day lost more than Rs 100 on heatwave days. Net earnings fell 40% during the study's two heatwave periods.

These are workers on daily wages or piece rates with no paid leave and no way to recover income once a hot day passes. Each additional degree is a direct transfer out of household income.

A policy shift

India's heat action plans are failing not because governments lack information but because they are built around public health metrics: hospitalisation, heatstroke deaths, rather than income protection. Three changes would close that gap.

First, states should establish heat allowances for informal workers tied to notified heatwave days. Kerala declared heatwaves a state-specific disaster in 2019 and mandated workplace safety measures for outdoor labourers during heat events. A declared heat event triggering enforceable employer obligations is the template. A wage top-up funded through the State Disaster Response Fund and triggered automatically when the India Meteorological Department issues a heat-wave alert would reach the highest-risk workers without requiring them to file claims.

Second, heatwave days should become labour-specific disaster events with binding wage-equivalence rules. Tamil Nadu already treats heat as a state disaster. The next step is attaching a labour protection condition: workers in outdoor informal employment who reduce hours during a declared heatwave should not lose income. This requires notifications under the Disaster Management Act.

Third, heat action plans should carry binding infrastructure targets with independent audits. Delhi and Chennai should commit to 100% coverage of free water and shaded rest points within 200 metres of registered vending zones, with quarterly public reporting. A target without a compliance mechanism is a recommendation. India's informal workers do not need another recommendation.

India's heat action plans are measured by cool rooms opened and misting stations installed. The right measure is whether a street vendor in Delhi can drink water without paying on a 44° afternoon, and whether a woman labourer who loses three working days to heat exhaustion has any income protection. On both counts, current plans fall short. The data is not in dispute. The policy response still is.

(The writer is an independent public policy researcher working on political economy, climate governance, technology policy, and democratic accountability)

Can the CPI(M) turn its electoral rout into an opportunity?

DATELINE Thiruvananthapuram

ARJUN RAGHUNATH

Defeat in elections is nothing new for the CPI(M) in Kerala. The state has a long history of the CPI(M)- and Congress-led fronts alternating in power. But this defeat is a cause for concern for the CPI(M) for several reasons.

In its worst-ever electoral defeat in Kerala, the party even lost communist citadels such as Thaliparambu and Payyannur in Kannur. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's victory margin in Dharmadam fell sharply from 50,123 to 19,247, along with nearly a 10% drop in vote share.

Another major concern is the Bharatiya Janata Party reopening its account in the Kerala Assembly with a bang, winning three seats after losing its lone seat in the previous elections. All three BJP victories came from sitting Left Front constituencies—Nemon and Kazhakoottam in Thiruvananthapuram from the CPI(M) and Chathannoor in Kollam from the CPI.

The BJP has already begun projecting the result as the beginning of a West Bengal- and Tripura-style shift—the states where the CPI(M) lost decades of dominance and the BJP emerged as a major force.

Even CPI(M) veterans are unwilling to dismiss such a possibility. "I can neither rule out nor admit that the Kerala CPI(M) would face the fate of the CPI(M) in West Bengal," veteran CPI(M) leader T K Hamza said.

Pinarayi Vijayan's image was widely credited for the Left Democratic Front (LDF)'s consecutive victory in the 2021 Assembly election, when the LDF improved its tally from 91 to 99 in the 140-member Assembly. It marked a deviation from Kerala's usual pattern of alternating governments.

However, in the 2026 election, the Pinarayi factor seems to have worked against the CPI(M), which suffered a rout.

The party not only projected the octogenarian as its undisputed leader but also sidelined possible contenders such as former health minister K K Shailaja. Denied renomination from her sitting seat in Mattanur, Kannur, she was fielded against Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph at the Congress stronghold Peravoor in Kannur. As anticipated, Shailaja, who won with the highest margin of 60,963 in 2021, lost by around 15,000 votes.

The past five years also saw Vijayan enjoying hero worship, with pro-CPI(M) outfits staging dance performances and songs praising him. It was not just a sharp deviation from the CPI(M) ideologies but also exposed Vijayan's double standards, given his earlier criticism of personality cults around former Chief Minister V S Achuthanadan and senior leader P Jayarajan.

The CPI(M) also appeared weaker in resisting attempts by vested interests to communalise Kerala society, which has traditionally upheld strong secular credentials. Vijayan's controversial remarks on the higher crime rates in Muslim-dominated Malappuram and his silence on communal remarks by SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan were widely seen as departures from the party's core ideology.

Allegations surrounding Vijayan's daughter's financial dealings with a controversial mining firm and Congress charges that central agencies were going soft on him because of an alleged nexus with the BJP and criticism of his authoritarian style and harsh remarks against opponents also contributed to his declining popularity.

The CPI(M) strongholds in Kannur and Ambalappuzha witnessed a massive erosion in the party's vote base, seemingly reflecting the impact of nepotism and corruption allegations raised by prominent party leaders such as T K Govindan, V Kunhikrishnan and G Sudhakaran. All three even won as rebel candidates, which gives a strong message that party cadres are no more blind believers of the leadership.

The anti-Pinarayi sentiments were evident as hoardings against him appeared in Kannur soon after the electoral rout.

Kerala is now keenly watching whether Vijayan himself will continue to lead the LDF in the Assembly in the coming years.

Though the BJP has only three MLAs against the LDF's 35 on the opposition benches, the party's winners include state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar and senior leader and former minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan.

The BJP has already declared its ambition to emerge as the ruling party in Kerala, citing West Bengal, where it grew from three seats in 2016 to become the principal challenger and winning within a decade.

Calls for leadership change have already emerged from CPI(M) supporters and, reportedly, from within the party. Many see the electoral defeat as a victory for the party.

"It is a real opportunity for the party to reinvent and re-emerge, as it still has a strong base," said former CPI(M)-backed independent MLA Sebastian Paul.

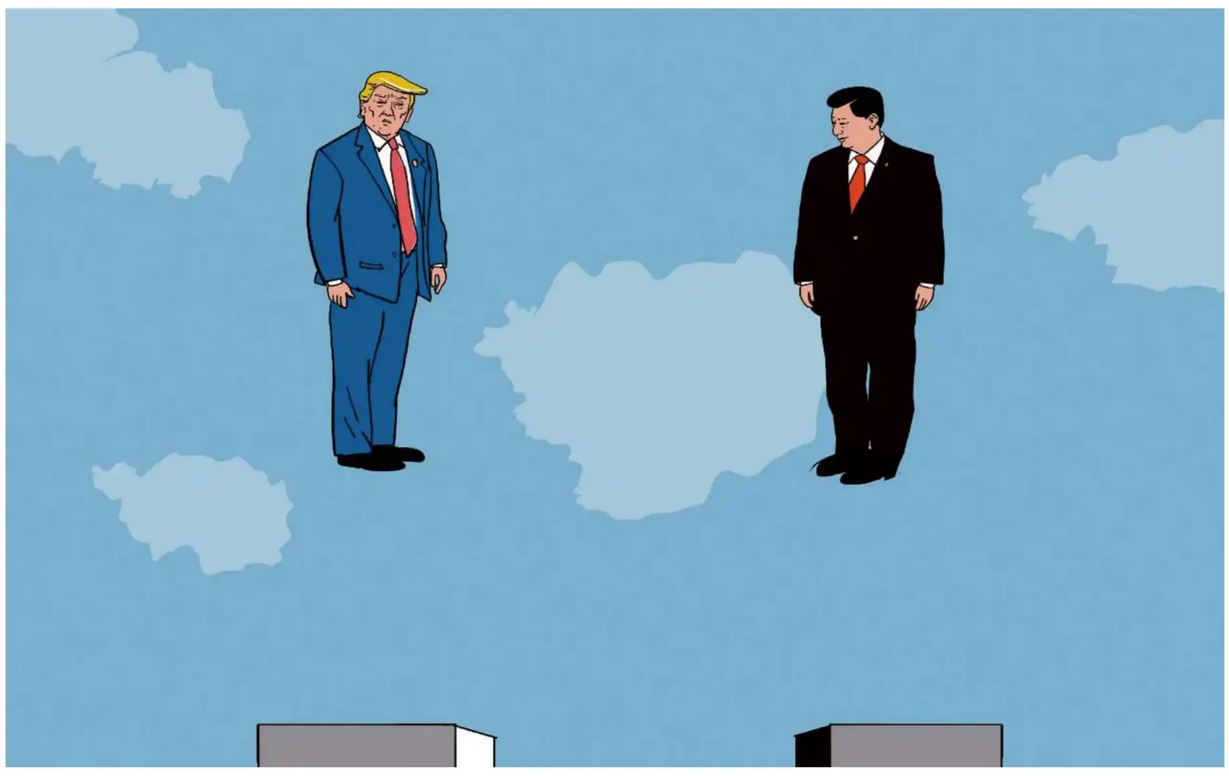
According to him, the mandate was against Pinarayi Vijayan rather than the CPI(M). A leadership change, therefore, could lead to a revival of the party. Since Vijayan has dominated the CPI(M) for nearly three decades, a sudden exit appears unlikely. One of the party's biggest crises now is the lack of a strong second line of leadership.

Paul also said Kerala is unlikely to witness a West Bengal-style BJP surge and CPI(M) wipeout. "The situations in West Bengal and Kerala are different. The CPI(M) still has a strong base in Kerala. We have also seen the BJP losing the lone assembly seat that they won in 2016," he said.

From the CPI(M)'s initial response to the electoral rout, it seems the party realises where it went wrong. It has now decided, at least, to give a patient hearing to voices from grassroots workers and supporters as part of a correction exercise. **DHNS**

The US president came into office planning harsher trade moves on China than on the rest of the world. Here's why he's had to scale them back

ANA SWANSON



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Trump's shrinking ambitions on China

When President Donald Trump campaigned in 2024, he promised a trade agenda that would hit China harder than any other economic partner, expanding on actions he had taken in his first term.

Trump talked about imposing a tariff of 60% or more on the country, and proposed stripping China of the preferential trade relations given to it when it joined the World Trade Organization. The rest of the world would be subject to tariffs, too, but they would be much lower, at 10% or 20%.

More than a year into Trump's first term, the picture looks dramatically different. Though US tariffs on China are higher overall when the tariffs from Trump's first term are added in, other countries have faced punitive levies that were nearly as high, and higher for some products.

The Trump administration has saved its most caustic criticism for allies in Europe and Canada, while approaching China more cautiously. And Trump's visit to Beijing this week for a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, expectations for its outcomes are limited.

Rather than pushing China for broader structural changes to its economy, as Trump's aides did in his first term, the focus now is largely on maintaining stable relations between the countries, while restoring or increasing US sales of products like airplanes, ethanol, soybeans, beef and sorghum.

The remarkable shrinking of Trump's Chinese ambitions is the result of the events of the past year, when China responded to Trump's tariffs by cutting off the supply of rare earth minerals and magnets needed by American companies making everything from cars and weaponry to power tools.

Facing the prospect of shuttered US factories and widespread economic damage, the Trump administration appears to have given up the idea of a more ambitious deal with China—widely acknowledged as the United States' most problematic trading partner — even as it presses less troublesome partners more aggressively than ever before.

Myron Brilliant, a senior counsellor at DGA-Albright Stonebridge Group, a consulting firm, said this week's summit in Beijing would be "high on strategic distrust and high on symbolism but low on ambition." Last year was a tumultuous period for US-China relations, he said, and both sides "are in risk management now."

"Each side seeks stability, and deliverables will be largely short-term in nature," he said. Brilliant said the outcomes could include agricultural and airplane purchases, and agreements to curb fentanyl exports.

US officials have talked about the creation of a new "board of trade" that would oversee the agreed purchases, which could run to tens of billions of dollars. Others have suggested the meeting could result in lower tariffs on more general products, to spur their sales.

While Trump's global tariffs have been repeatedly struck down by the courts, the administration is preparing two new trade investigations that are likely to result in more levies on dozens of countries this summer, including China. Chinese officials are expected to press US officials to keep those tariffs low.

Analysts said Chinese officials also appeared likely to push for the relaxation of US technology controls or a change in US posture on Taiwan, a self-governing island that China claims as its own.

Kurt Campbell, a former US deputy secretary of state, said the Chinese side would be looking, wherever possible, to get the United States to relent on economic actions like tariffs. But the most important priority for China is to get Trump to depart from traditional approaches when it comes to Taiwan.

"If there are deals to be made on Chinese substantial purchases of agricultural or beef products, pork or Boeing, they will expect things in return for that," he said.

US officials have said they don't expect to see any changes with regard to policy on Taiwan. In a briefing with reporters Sunday, Anna Kelly, a spokesperson for the White House, said that Trump had refocused US-China relations "on what matters most, rebuilding the safety, security and prosperity of Americans."

"During this visit, President Trump will continue doing what he has done over the past year, rebalancing the relationship with China and prioritising reciprocity and fairness to restore American economic independence," she said.

Despite Trump's aggressive talk during the campaign, his advisers say his goal was never a decisive decoupling with China. Instead, he envisioned his trade threats as a way to push Beijing into a bigger trade deal that would tilt the balance in the relationship to benefit the US economy and help ensure global peace.

The problem was the execution. When Trump tried to force China into making concessions last year by threatening extreme tariffs, the tactic backfired, forcing the US to pare back its goals.

"They did move to be more aggressive on China," Mary Lovely, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said of US officials. "What happened was China decided to invoke its significant choke-points of its own and countered the US in ways that it hadn't done before."

"I have no idea why they didn't anticipate that," she added.

As the situation escalated again last fall, top officials including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Jamieson Greer, the trade representative, assembled a list of actions they could take to strike back, including restrictions on things like software, semiconductor manufacturing equipment and visas, that might force Beijing to back down.

But before a meeting with Xi in South Korea in October, the president told his advisers instead to try to push for a truce. The US ended up shelving a variety of actions on China, including a delay in the imposition of a sweeping technology restriction that would affect Chinese companies, and new fees on Chinese ships aimed at building up the US shipbuilding industry.

In recent months, the United States and China have maintained a tentative truce. Many exports of Chinese rare earths have resumed to companies not linked to the military, though US companies remain intensely concerned about their longer-term access to minerals. The administration has taken steps to try to increase the domestic supply of rare earths, including creating a critical minerals stockpile, but US industry remains heavily reliant on China for the materials that will be critical to the US economy going forward.

After Trump met Xi in South Korea, both sides talked enthusiastically of meetings to come between the leaders in the following year. A meeting was planned for April, but then rescheduled for May because of the Iran conflict.

Christopher Padilla, a former trade official in the George W Bush administration, agreed that there would likely not be "a lot of big outcomes." He added, "They're going to agree we buy some of this, they buy some of that, and then they'll have a party and call it a day."

US officials say their talks will result in a fairer trade relationship with China, and argue that they still have an edge. But the Chinese government seems more determined than ever to match any offensive US measures step for step, in ways that could be deeply harmful for the US economy.

China has issued regulations in recent months to investigate and punish foreign companies that stop using Chinese suppliers in response to foreign pressure. And after the United States penalised several Chinese refineries for purchasing Iranian oil, the Chinese government took the unorthodox step of ordering its companies not to comply with the sanctions.

Lovely said China had been building out the legal foundation for measures to counter foreign sanctions for a decade.

"Now they feel confident enough to use them," she said.

The New York Times

The Governor's call

M J VINOD AND POURNAMY

The recent Tamil Nadu elections threw up a fractured verdict. In a stunning debut, C Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats, bringing the role of Governor Rajendra Arlekar under scrutiny. One would have expected the Governor to invite the TVK to form the government, especially as there was no pre-poll alliance. Instead, his insistence that the party demonstrate majority support of 118 legislators before being invited sparked intense debates. The larger constitutional question is whether a Governor is obliged to invite the leader of the single largest party to form the government or whether he can use his discretion. There is, however, no established precedent.

The Sarkaria Commission (1983) observed that the Governor should invite the party or coalition "with the widest support base" to form the government, subject to a floor test in the House. In *S R Bommai v. Union of India* (1994), the Supreme Court held that the majority of a government must be tested on the floor of the House and that the Governor must invite either a party with a clear majority or the single largest party/group to form the government. In *Rameshwar Prasad* (2006), the Court reiterated the primacy of floor testing. Thus, the Governor is expected to use his qualitative judgment while exploring every constitutional avenue for the formation of a democratically elected government.

Justice M N Venkatachaliah (2002) suggested that when the single largest party is invited to form the government, the chief minister should be given 30 days to seek a vote of confidence on the floor of the House. The Punchhi Commission later argued that a pre-poll alliance should be treated as a single political entity. It largely endorsed the Sarkaria Commission's four-step order of preference: first, a pre-poll alliance; second, the single largest party; third, a post-poll coalition; and finally, a post-poll alliance.

History shows that governors have not followed a uniform course of action. Ultimately, a majority can only be proved on the floor of the House. Can a Governor legitimately decide whether a government will be stable or not? During the recent Tamil Nadu stalemate, several permutations and combinations were possible, triggering a fierce contest of arithmetic, alliances and survival. Eventually, Vijay became the first non-DMK, non-AIADMK chief minister since 1967.

Similar scenarios have arisen in the past. In 1952, the Indian National Congress was reduced to a minority in the Madras Legislative Assembly, winning 152 of 375 seats. Opposition parties subsequently formed a post-poll alliance called the United Democratic Front (UDF). However, the Governor of Madras refused to invite the UDF to form the government. Instead, he nominated C Rajagopalachari to the Legislative Council and invited him to head the government. The controversial move set a precedent in which the Governor ignored a majority coalition in favour of the single largest party.

The 2017 Assembly elections in Goa and Manipur also produced hung verdicts. In both states, Mridula Sinha in Goa and Najma Heptulla in Manipur, the governors declined to invite the single largest party, the Congress, to form the government. Instead, they invited the BJP, which had formed a post-poll alliance with regional parties. The Goa matter reached the Supreme Court, which allowed the government to be formed but reduced the 15-day deadline for proving majority to just two days. Manohar Parrikar became the chief minister despite the Congress being the single largest party. In Manipur, although the matter did not reach the courts, a similar process led to N Biren Singh becoming the chief minister. In both states, the Governors' actions attracted considerable criticism.

In 2018, Karnataka witnessed a hung assembly. Governor Vajubhai Vala invited the BJP leader B S Yediyurappa to form the government and granted him 15 days to prove his majority. However, in an extraordinary midnight hearing, the Supreme Court reduced this period to 24 hours. Unable to muster sufficient support, Yediyurappa resigned before the floor test. The Congress-JD(S) coalition subsequently formed the government.

Political exigencies and constitutional practice have often expanded the Governor's role and powers. Constitutional experts remain divided on the extent of this discretion. Articles 164(1) and 164 (2) provide the Governor with a limited degree of constitutional discretion, shaped by circumstance. Such powers must be exercised in a *bona fide* rather than *mala fide* manner. While the Constitution does not prescribe specific criteria for inviting a party to form the government, the Governor cannot disregard constitutional conventions, practices, commission recommendations and judicial precedents.

(Vinod is a professor and Pournamy is an assistant professor at the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, Christ deemed to be University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Landless labourer brutally assaulted

Bangalore, May 13

Fifty-five-year-old Chikke Venkatappa, a landless labourer of Errannapalya village, on the outskirts of the City, was a victim of the terrible wrath of a landlord. He was reportedly attacked with lathis and sickles while working on the field. His teenaged son, who went to his rescue, was pushed into a well. A group of goondas, who did this ghastly act, tried to place a big stone on the teenager who was struggling to come out of the well. The boy managed to escape from his assailants, but he suffered injuries on his head and hands.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

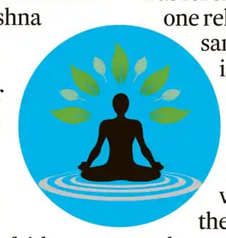
Jaya sweeps TN; big UDF win in Kerala

New Delhi, May 13

Anti-incumbency factor ruled high in three of the five states which went to the polls on May 10. The Left Front rode back to victory for a stunning sixth successive term in West Bengal. The AIADMK-led front romped home with a thumping win in Tamil Nadu. The Congress has reasons to be happy over the outcome of the elections as it emerged the winner in Kerala as well as Assam and was all set to retain power in Pondicherry. The anti-incumbency factor seemed to have decided the winner in three of the five states.

OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

Have faith and lose your mind to win God



When I choose to answer 'yes' to the question of whether there is a god, then the question arises as to how to approach Him and where He is. Verse five from the *Ishopanishad* says, He moves about everywhere; He is near, yet far; He is within all of us and yet beyond us.

Thus, it is up to each one of us to seek Him out. Many attain a state of bliss by dwelling on the formless, or *nirgun*, God, whereas for most a *sagun* God, one with form, is needed for focus. Krishna is the most approachable form, and pure devotees find bliss in learning about his *leelas*. Krishna says that He is a witness to the devotee's thoughts and deeds, and He dwells in the heart of the pure devotee who unceasingly offers Him love and respectful obeisances. Krishna has stressed *bhakti-ras* by saying that one would understand Him and enter His kingdom only through pure devotional service (*Bhagavad Gita* 18.55).

According to the 19th-century philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, having faith is like losing one's mind and winning God. The Bhakti movement in India saw exalted saints do exactly this. They abandoned material pleasures and propagated devotion to a personal god. Vaishnava saint Madhwacharya was foremost in addressing a one-on-one relationship with God, at the same time insisting that God is infinitely superior and a mortal can never equal Him. He penned Sanskrit verses, *Dwadasha Sthotras*, in praise of Lord Vishnu in his various avatars, which kindles the devotional fervour in ardent devotees.

Saint Vadirajatheertha followed in his tradition, penning countless hymns in praise of a personal God. The Haridasa tradition continued with Purandaradasa, Kanakadasa, Vijayadasa, Jagannathadasa and many more in the south, and Tulsidas, who extolled Ram, and Meerabai among those in the north.

The *bhakti* path is no doubt difficult in this consumerist world wherein the mind is full of worldly clutter. But when the mind is trained to restrict itself to functional operations regarding material matters, then a space is created for thoughts on spiritual matters, whereafter an image of a personal God emerges, towards whom the mind veers and focuses on; this god then becomes your mentor, and you are set on the *bhakti* path.

4, including 3 church leaders, killed in Manipur

Fresh violence hits state govt's peace efforts; toll rises to 18 since April 7

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

In another setback to ongoing efforts to restore peace in Manipur on Wednesday, three church leaders belonging to the Thadou tribe were gunned down in an ambush in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district, while a civilian was gunned down and his wife wounded in Noney district.

The Thadous share ethnic ties with the Kuki-Zo communities.

The attack took place between Kotlen and Kotzim villages when the church leaders were returning after attending a United Baptist Church conference in Churachandpur, another Kuki-dominated district that has remained volatile due to the Meitei-Kuki conflict since 2023. Armed assailants opened fire on their vehicles around 11.30 am, killing the three on the spot.

The second incident occurred at a place between Jouzangtek and Nungsai villages in Noney district around 8 pm. Wilson Thanga and his wife were returning home in Dolang village in a four-wheeler from Imphal when they were attacked by 'militants'.

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), in a statement, said the victims were identified as Reverend V Sitlhou, Reverend Kaigoulun Lhouvum and Pastor Paogoulen Sitlhou. The council noted that Sitlhou had played an important role in efforts to end the conflict between the Tangkhul Nagas and the Kukis in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district of Manipur since February. "Alongside the Nagaland Joint Christian Forum, he recently led peace missions between Tangkhul Naga and Kuki communities currently in conflict in Manipur," the KZC said.

Several Kuki-Zo organisations alleged the involvement of the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF-Kamson faction) and Valley-based Meitei armed groups. However, the ZUF faction and some Valley-based organisations rejected the allegations.

The attack dealt another blow to Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh's government, which has been attempting since February to end the Meitei-Kuki conflict and Naga-Kuki violence in Ukhrul. Wednesday's ambush raised death toll since April 7 to 18. "This act of violence is deeply troubling and devastating not only for the families but for the entire state, as it disrupts our path to peace," Singh said. (*With PTI inputs*)

ANOTHER SETBACK

- **Ambush in Kangpokpi after Baptist conference**
- Assailants opened fire near Kotlen, Kotzim
- **Kuki-Zo groups allege ZUF, Meitei role**
- Shutdown call in Kuki districts; protest against fresh killings
- **CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh condemns attack.**

Kerala kids seek collector's help to end parents' discord

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Two brothers, aged 10 and eight, have approached a district collector in Kerala with an unusual request — to end the marital discord between their parents.

The boys, from Thrithala in Palakkad district, said the conflict at home was deeply hurting them and sought the intervention of Collector MS Madhavikutty.

Kerala HC judge Justice PV Kunhikrishnan, who came across the children's plight, intervened and sought a report from the district judge. The District Legal Services Authority will now initiate talks between the couple.

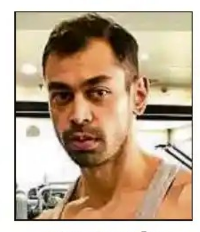
According to the children, their mother, who works abroad, wanted to take them with her but did not want to take their father along. They also said that even when their mother took the family abroad recently, they faced neglect from her. Their father, meanwhile, had become addicted to alcohol, and the parents were no longer on speaking terms.

The boys were accompanied by their grandfather and a cousin, who said that the children were suffering because of the discord between their parents.

The collector directed child protection officials to provide counselling to the children and ensure their safety.

Prateek, Mulayam's younger son, dies at 38

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS


Prateek Yadav

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's stepbrother Prateek Yadav died on Wednesday at a Lucknow hospital.

According to sources, 38-year-old Prateek, who had been ill for the past few days, was brought to the Civil Hospital around 5.45 am after he stopped responding, where the doctors declared him "brought dead".

Prateek, the younger son of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, was reportedly admitted to a private hospital in serious condition three days ago, and was discharged after his condition improved.

A panel of three doctors conducted an autopsy under the supervision of the chief medical officer to ascertain the cause of his death. The post-mortem examination was also video-recorded, sources said.

The autopsy report revealed that his body had six injury marks. The injuries were described as "ante-mortem", meaning they happened before his death.

According to doctors, the cause of death was cardio-respiratory collapse owing to pulmonary thromboembolism — a serious, often life-threatening condition where a blood clot blocks an artery in the lungs, cutting off blood flow and causing low blood oxygen, chest pain, and potential heart damage.

Sources said Prateek was found unconscious in the kitchen in his house around dawn on Wednesday.

Prateek's mother, Sadhna Gupta, was Mulayam Yadav's second wife.

Akhilesh expressed grief over the death of Prateek through a social media post.

Aparna Bisht Yadav, his wife, is a BJP member and vice chairperson of the State Women's Commission.

Pocso case: Bandi Sanjay's son skips police appearance

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Bandi Bageerath, the 23-year-old son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, failed to appear before the police on Wednesday for questioning in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

The Petbasheerabad police had issued notices summoning him at 2 pm, but he did not comply.

Posters appealing to the public to help trace Bageerath have since appeared in localities across Hyderabad — including Serilingampally and Nallakunta.

Meanwhile, the Petbasheerabad police upgraded the charges against him after re-recording the victim's statement on Tuesday.

Bageerath now faces allegations of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under Section 5(I) read with Section 6 of the Pocso Act, among the most serious offences under the law, up from earlier charge of sexual harassment of a child under Section 11, which covers non-physical acts of sexual intent. The upgraded charge is a non-bailable offence carrying a minimum sentence of 20 years' rigorous imprisonment, extendable to life imprisonment or the death penalty.

The anticipatory bail petition he filed will come up for hearing before a bench in the Telangana High Court on Thursday. In the petition, Bageerath has alleged that the victim had lied about her age and was not a minor.

Speaking about the Pocso case, Telangana Rakshana Sena founder Kalvakuntla Kavitha said: "Bandi Sanjay should have recused himself from sharing stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, considering the seriousness of allegations against his son."

MISCELLANY

COMICS

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WRLTA

ROSVA

ONLDEO

RISPLA

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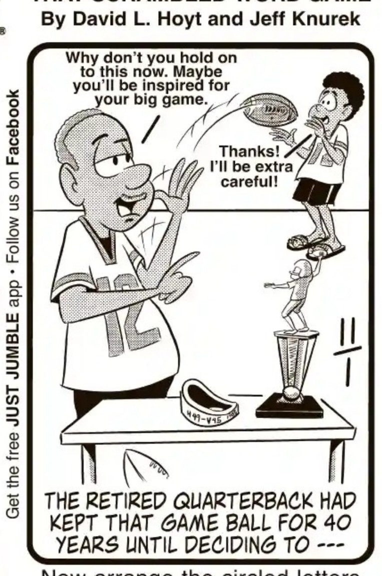

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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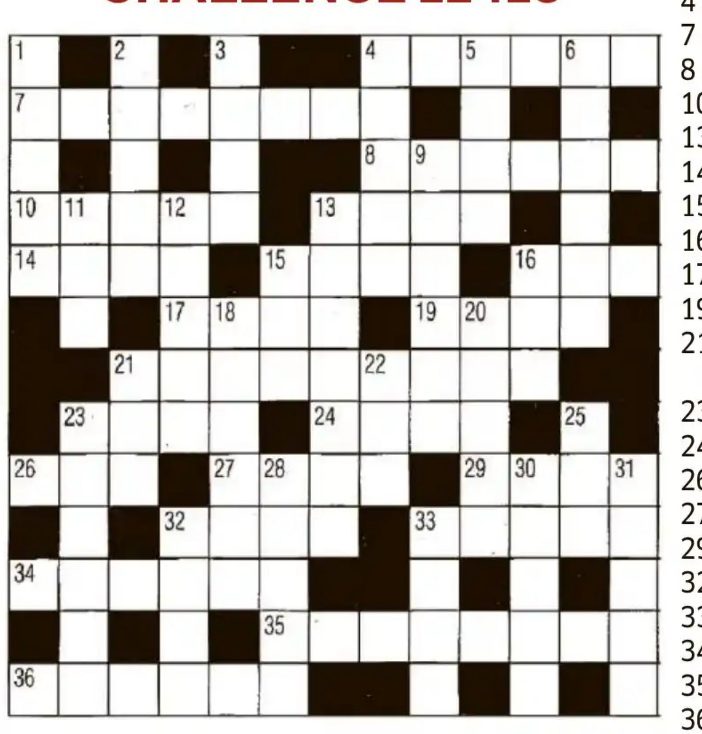
Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORUM JUICE LEVITY SAFARI
Answer: When Stephen King's story became a film starring Sissy Spacek, it was a — "SCARRIE" MOVIE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12416



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Highly strung art form? (6)
7 Desperate thing to do (4,4)
8 Fatally uninteresting (6)
10 Chosen key to the French court (5)
13 A sort of squashed gnat flavour? (4)
14 The essence of an epithet (4)
15 Formerly the apprentices' cry? (4)
16 A cry of ìShip ahoy!î (3)
17 Slavonic river? (4)
19 One fled the country (4)
21 Weedy loungers sprawling around the quarter deck (9)
23 She has half a mind to double up! (4)
24 Scoffs in great surprise (4)
26 A talking horse? (3)
27 A firm way with a strong line (4)
29 Michelangelo's French style? (4)
32 Large wavy areas (4)
33 Put on, dramatically (5)
34 Once more, a failure is lax (6)
35 I'm definitely shown to be better (8)
36 Underfoot, they can be gripping (6)

DOWN
1 A sound way to call the doctor (5)
2 The advantage of adjustable seats (5)
3 Some question of a pointed hat (4)
4 You could get lamed winning one (5)
5 Be boastful at cards (4)
6 In short, she can do without Ian (6)
9 Join up, using tinsel (6)
11 Sliding cover? (3)
12 See injury, perhaps, in magnetism (5)
13 Notes the sound of male voices (7)
15 One said to be sheepish and female? (3)
16 A friend and father to a beginner (3)
18 Speaks in a way confusing to most novices (6)
20 Replant trees? (5)
21 A one night stand, perhaps (3)
22 Ask him for some good advice (3)
23 Compensate for lack of natural beauty? (4,2)
25 At some stage, a novice will fall behind (3)
28 A nice placed to be deserted? (5)
30 Grubby, immature youngster (5)
31 Nelson Eddy's donkey? (5)
32 Posh stuff to cocoon a worm (4)
33 In which a woman could give herself airs? (4)

ACROSS
4 Distinguished, famous (2,4)
7 Perseveres (8)
8 Picture house (6)
10 Accumulate (5)
13 Narrow road or path (4)
14 Fish (4)
15 Glass containers (4)
16 In favour of (3)
17 Defeat (4)
19 Streetcar (4)
21 Of Norway (9)
23 Prohibition (4)
24 Throw of dice (4)
26 Piece (3)
27 Deceased (4)
29 Sediment (4)
32 Cure (4)
33 Eagle's nest (5)
34 Strain, emphasis (6)
35 The outside (8)
36 Drive or push forward (6)

DOWN
1 Small fish (5)
2 Complain, grumble (5)
3 Osculate (4)
4 Acting award (5)
5 Not any (4)
6 Drum type (3-3)
9 Introduce gradually (6)
11 Drinking vessel (3)
12 Wooden shoe (5)
13 Of the sides (7)
15 Skull part (3)
16 Football supporter (3)
18 Wears away (6)
20 Recover strength (5)
21 Mesh (3)
22 King of kings (3)
23 Winner (6)
25 Hawaiian garland (3)
28 Artist's stand (5)
30 Boy's name (5)
31 Prophets (5)
32 Assist (4)
33 Paradise (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12415

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, L-itch-I 7, Solitude 8, Gull 10, Bridie 11, Strif-E 14, Net 16, Bat-on 17, Rear 19, Mag-OG 21, D-el-ay 22, Ar-Gus 23, MO-s-T 26, Hoary 28, Bi-g 29, Ol-d men 30, Tall-ow 31, I-D-le 32, Spiteful 33, (phi-)Lately.
DOWN: 1, Lu-MB-er 2, C-ruder 3, Isle 4, Liftboy 5, Cubit 6, Ye-men 8, Gin-a 9, Lit 12, Rag 13, F-ools 15, Val-u-e 18, Ex-tol 19, Meg 20, Gas (sag) 21, Dry-eyed 22, A-RM 23, Millet 24, Og-le 25, Taw-dry 26, House 27, Admi-t 28, Bad (dab) 30, Till.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Banana 7, Brisbane 8, Bare 10, Avocet 11, Entice 14, Mud 16, Dated 17, Ebbs 19, Foyer 21, Wafer 22, Satan 23, Peep 26, Power 28, Dip 29, Adhere 30, Recess 31, Anne 32, Arsonist 33, Sacred.
DOWN: 1, Beware 2, Abacus 3, Abet 4, Asunder 5, Tacit 6, Ceded 8, Bomb 9, Red 12, Tar 13, Cease 15, So far 18, Blood 19, Fat 20, Yen 21, Warrant 22, See 23, Picnic 24, Epee 25, Passed 26, Pagan 27, Whist 28, Den 30, Rats.

SU-DO-KU-6905

					5		4	6
	1				8			
		5		1				7
	7					9		4
1			5		2			8
4		2					5	
7				5		8		
			3				7	
9	8		6					

hard

SOLUTION TO 6904

1	9	4	2	8	5	7	3	6
8	6	2	1	3	7	4	9	5
7	3	5	9	4	6	1	2	8
6	2	9	7	5	8	3	4	1
3	5	8	4	2	1	9	6	7
4	7	1	6	9	3	5	8	2
5	8	6	3	7	9	2	1	4
9	4	7	8	1	2	6	5	3
2	1	3	5	6	4	8	7	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3359

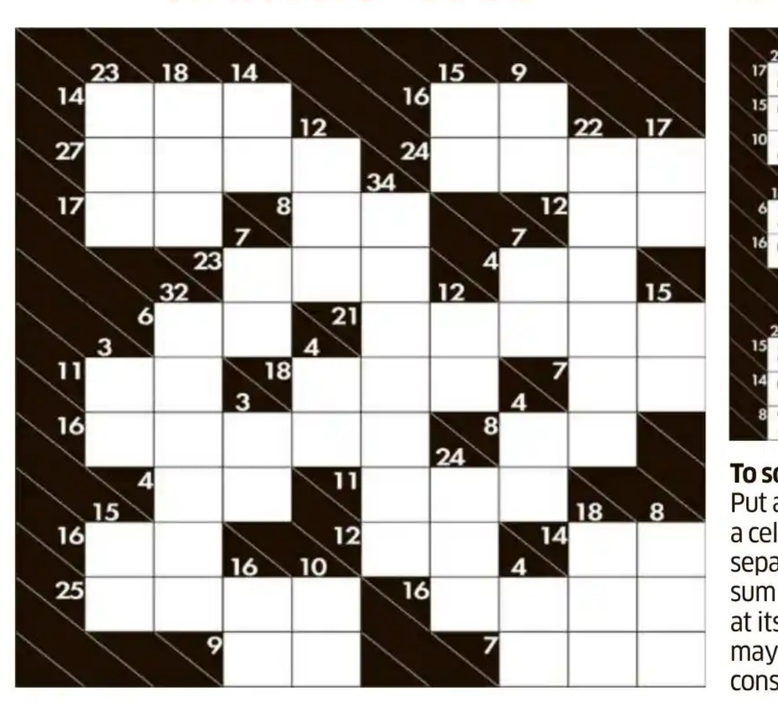
4	5	2	8	4	4	3	1
8	6	5	7	3	2	4	4
7	4	2	1	6	2	1	8
1	8	5	6	8	4	4	7
2	1	3	1	7	8	5	6
4	1	7	4	6	5	4	3
4	3	1	5	1	2	2	4
4	4	6	2	5	3	7	2

SOLUTION TO 3358

4	■	1	7	■	8	6	■
7	8	4	■	5	3	■	6
5	■	6	1	8	■	3	4
1	3	■	2	■	5	4	■
8	■	5	4	2	1	■	3
■	4	8	3	■	7	1	2
3	6	7	■	4	2	■	8
6	■	3	8	■	4	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3359



SOLUTION TO 3358

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SCRABBLE

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RACK 1: V4 R1 F4 E1 E1 E1 D2 — Triple Word Score
RACK 2: E1 E1 L1 D2 N1 D2 A1
RACK 3: M3 C3 A1 S1 R1 R1 I1 — 3rd Letter Triple
RACK 4: E1 U1 L1 J8 D2 G2 G2 — Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 165-175
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

D2 O1 Z10 E1 N1 T1 H4	RACK 1 =	110
J8 A1 S1 M3 I1 N1 E1	RACK 2 =	98
P3 A1 R1 L1 A1 Y4 S1	RACK 3 =	86
A1 D2 A1 M3 A1 N1 T1	RACK 4 =	80
W4 A1 X8 W4 O1 R1 K5	RACK 5 =	122
PAR SCORE 325-335	JUDD'S TOTAL	496

SU DO KU X - 3915

								6
	5			2				8
2	1							
5				4				3
					6			1
			8		1			
1						3		
					4			
		6		3				9

SOLUTION TO 3914

1	6	4	8	7	2	9	3	5
8	3	5	4	6	9	1	7	2
7	9	2	3	5	1	8	6	4
3	5	6	7	8	4	2	1	9
4	1	7	2	9	5	6	8	3
2	8	9	1	3	6	5	4	7
5	7	3	9	1	8	4	2	6
9	2	8	6	4	7	3	5	1
6	4	1	5	2	3	7	9	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 02 GRC 2026 **Date: 22.04.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Director General of Police (DGP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Special Units, and Economic Offences and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Special Investigation Team, FIU, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and investigation officer for Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, Fraudulent Company and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the movable properties as specified in the Annexure 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Staff Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Bengaluru, and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

Details of Seized Gold and Silver Ornaments

Sl. No	PF NO	Details of Gold and Silver Ornaments	Present Market Value (in Rs.)	Remarks
1		38 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ 2 ಬಳೆಗಳು		***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
2		12 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಪೆಂಡೆಂಟ್		
3		54 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಚಿನ್ನದ ಪೆಂಡೆಂಟ್ & ಸರ		
4		33 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಆಂಟಿಕ್ ವಾಲೆ ಜುಮುಕಿ		
5		8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಸ್ಟೋನ್ ವಾಲೆ ಜುಮುಕಿ		
6		30 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಆಂಟಿಕ್ ವಾಲೆ		
7		05 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಸ್ಟೋರ್ ಕಮಲ್		
8		20 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಕಟ್ ಆಗಿರುವ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಚೈನು		
9		44 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಸ್ಟೋನ್ ಪೆಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸರ		
10		62 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ವಲತ್ತೀನ್ ಪೆಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸರ		
11		38 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಸ್ಟೋನ್ ಬಳೆ		
12		6 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಲೇಡಿಸ್ ರಿಂಗ್		
13		5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ–		
14		9 ಗ್ರಾಂ, ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಹರಳಿನ ಜುಮುಕಿ–		
15		13 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಕಪ್ಪು ಮಣಿ ಚೈನು		
16		5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಕಪ್ಪು ಮಣಿ ಚೈನು		
17	81/2025	10 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಚಿನ್ನದ ಚೈನಾ ಡಾಲರ್	****	
18		1.7 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಎಸ್.ಡಾಲರ್		
19		1.6 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಏ ಡಾಲರ್		
20		2 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಸಾದಾ ಉಂಗುರ		
21		4 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಓಂ.ಡಾಲರ್		
22		4 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಕಮಲ್		
23		1 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಮೂಗುತಿ		
24		1.5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಸೈಡ್ ವಾಲೆ		
25		30 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕಾಲ್ ಚೈನು		
26		13 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಒಂದು ಆಂಜನೇಯ ವಿಗ್ರಹ		
27		5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕೃಷ್ಣನ ವಿಗ್ರಹ		
28		55 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕುಂಕುಮ ಬಟ್ಟಲು		
29		37 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಒಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕುಂಕುಮ ಬಟ್ಟಲು		
30		29 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಕಪ್ಪು ಮಣಿಗಳ ಮಂಗಲ್ಯ ಸೂತ್ರ		
31		01 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಗು ಧರಿಸುವ ಉಂಗರ.		***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
32		0.9 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಗು ಧರಿಸುವ ಬಿಳಿ ಬಣ್ಣದ ಹರಳು ಮಿಶ್ರಿತ ಉಂಗುರ.		
33		0.96 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಗು ಧರಿಸುವ ಬಿಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಸಿರು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
34		2.6 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಧರಿಸುವ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಉಂಗುರ.		
35		3.5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಧರಿಸುವ ಹಸಿರು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
36		6.12 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಧರಿಸುವ ಕೆಂಪು, ಬಿಳಿ, ಹಸಿರು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
37		4 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಂಡಸು ಧರಿಸುವ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
38		3.8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಂಡಸು ಧರಿಸುವ ಕೆಂಪು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
39		5.9 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಂಡಸು ಧರಿಸುವ ಕೆಂಪು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
40		3.2 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಂಡಸು ಧರಿಸುವ ಕೆಂಪು ಹರಳಿನ ಉಂಗುರ.		
41	84/2025	11 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕೆಂಪು ಮಣಿಗಳಿರುವ ಮಾಟಿ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.	****	
42		5.1 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಕಪ್ಪು ಹರಳು ಇರುವ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
43		7.3 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಜಾಲರಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
44		9.8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
45		3.5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
46		3.5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಹಸಿರು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಹರಳಿನ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
47		4.8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕೆಂಪು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಹರಳು ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಳಿ ಮುತ್ತಿನ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
48		3.8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬಿಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಪ್ಪು ಹರಳಿನ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
49		2.0 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕೆಂಪು ಹರಳಿನ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
50		4.6 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕಿವಿ ಓಲೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ (ಜುಮುಕಿ).		
51		3.5 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳಿನ ಜುಮುಕಿ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
52		2.1 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಸಾದಾ ಜುಮುಕಿ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
53		29.8 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕೈಬಳೆ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ.		
54		11.07 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಂಡಸು ಧರಿಸುವ ಬ್ರಾಸಲೇಟ್.		
55		20 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕೆಂಪು ಮಣಿ ಇರುವ ನಕ್ಲೆಸ್.		
56		49 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಧರಿಸುವ ಲಾಂಗ್ ಚೈನ್ (ಕೆಂಪು ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಳಿ ಹರಳುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.)		
57		19 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಧರಿಸುವ ಗುಂಡಿನ ಸರ (50ಗುಂಡುಗಳಿದ್ದು ಕಪ್ಪು ದಾರ ಸಮೇತ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.)		
58		ಸೆಲ್ಪ್ ಪ್ಲೇಟ್ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿ ಆಭರಣ ಸುಮಾರು 300 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
59		ಸ್ಮಾಲ್ ಸೈಜ್ ಸೆಲ್ಪ್ ಪ್ಲೇಟ್ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿ ಆಭರಣ ಸುಮಾರು 55 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
60		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಒಂದು ಪಂಚದೀಪ ಸುಮಾರು 54 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
61	82/2025	ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಒಂದು ಪ್ಲೇನ್ ಪ್ಲೇಟ್ ಸುಮಾರು 119 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
62		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಒಂದು ಕುಂಕುಮ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸುಮಾರು 40 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
63		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ಪೀಕಾಕ್ ದೀಪ ಸುಮಾರು 580 ಗ್ರಾಂ		

Sl. No	PF NO	Details of Gold and Silver Ornaments	Present Market Value (in Rs.)	Remarks
64	82/2025	ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 4 ಗ್ಲಾಸುಗಳು ಸುಮಾರು 140 ಗ್ರಾಂ	****	***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
65		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಕರ್ಪೂರದ ಆರತಿ ಸುಮಾರು 105 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
66		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ತಲೆಯ ಟಿಕ್ಕಾ ಸುಮಾರು 15 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
67		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಜೊತೆ ಕಿವಿಯೋಲೆ ಸುಮಾರು 12 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
68		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಡಾಲರ್ ಸುಮಾರು 06 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
69		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಜೊತೆ ಕಾಲುಚೈನು ಸುಮಾರು 11 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
70		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಜೊತೆ ಕಾಲುಂಗುರ 4 ಪೀಸುಗಳಿರುತ್ತವೆ ಸುಮಾರು 27 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
71		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಕಾಲುಂಗುರ ಸುಮಾರು 3 ಗ್ರಾಂ		
72		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಕಾಲುಂಗುರ ಸುಮಾರು 1 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
73		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 4 ಕಾಯಿನ್‌ಗಳು ಸುಮಾರು 17 ಗ್ರಾಂ.		
74		ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಯ 1 ಜೊತೆ ಕಾಲುಂಗುರ 4 ಗ್ರಾಂ		

Annexure-2

Details of Vehicles Seized (Four Wheelers) PF No. 81/2025, 83/2025,86/2025

Sl. No	Vehicle Registration Number	Vehicle Details	Present market value(in Rs.)	Remarks
1	KA-01 MW 7007	THAR Jeep Chassis Number: MA1UJ4ZA2M2F11269 Engine Number: ZAMA4F41948 Colour: Red Rage	*****	***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
2	KA-01 MC 2116	Honda City Car Chassis Number: MAK3A357D3N201923 Engine Number: B15C2003761 Colour: NH Black		
3	KA-47 M-7389	Volkswagan Polo Car Chassis Number: WVWA176RZHY171799 Engine Number: DAJ031877 Colour: Deep Black		
4	KA-04 MP 3493	R-20 T2-48V Li-0n Chassis Number: MB7D8RXBAEJK10730 Engine Number: X114L0011 Colour: Spanish Red		
5	KA-04 MT-2632	Honda Brio Car (1.2 VXMT) Chassis Number: MAKDD175BHN400878 Engine Number: L12B35006651 Colour: White		
6	KA-01 MP-7258	Maruthi Ciaz ZXI Chassis Number: MA3EXMG1S00267834 Engine Number: K14BN7153881 Colour: Grey		
7	KA-09-MD 2335	Mercedes Benz Car Chassis Number: 1241266C2*** Engine Number: 605911200*** Colour:		
8	MET 4500	Premium Padmini Car Chassis Number: PA0***** Engine Number: PA***** Colour:		
9	KA-01 MU 3036	BMW Car Chassis Number: WBABE22070JE80566 Engine Number: 01658343 Colour: Red		
10	KA-03 MB 0643	Honda City Car Chassis Number: MAK3A3572N200964 Engine Number: B15C2002780 Colour: Silver		
11	KA-41 N 1225	Hyundai I-10 MAGNA 1.2 Chassis Number: MALAM51CR9M42107*H Engine Number: GALA9M216994 Colour: S Silver		

Annexure-3

Details of Vehicles Seized (Two Wheelers) PF No. 81/2025 and 86/2025

Sl. No	Vehicle Registration Number	Vehicle Details	Present market value(in Rs.)	Remarks
1	KA-05 LG 0770	Interceptor 650 Two Wheeler Chassis Number: ME3P7A6FKL1061426 Engine Number: P7A6KL1064976 Colour: Ex White & Red	*****	***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
2	KA-05 LS 0007	Yamaha Aerox Two Wheeler Chassis Number: MEISG7511P0021027 Engine Number: G3R8E0022209 Colour: Deep Purplish Blue		
3	KA-01 HT 0077	Yamaha Ray Z Two Wheeler Chassis Number: ME1SE778AG01*** Engine Number: E3N6E01*** Colour: Red Black		
4	KA-05 LG 4826	Ola Electric Two Wheeler Chassis Number: P53AFDCBIBCA04058 Engine Number: M25A0121BC0067 Colour:Cora Glam Red		
5	CKG-9233	Yamaha RX Two Wheeler Chassis Number: 1L1 0*** Engine Number: 1L1 0*** Colour:		
6	KA-04 EC-6696	Yamaha RX 135 Two Wheeler Chassis Number: 02D4TL527593 Engine Number: 4TL52593 Colour: Black		

Annexure-4

Details of Electronic Items Seized (PF No.80/2025 and PF No. 87/2025)

Sl. No	Details of Electonic Items	Present Market Value (Rs.)	Remarks
1	Laptop Dell Inspiron 15-3000 Sl. No. 97113RR53 Silver Color	*****	***** Market Value will be determined, by the authorised valuer after obtaining the absolute order from the Special Court.
2	Mobile Phone I-Phone, 16 Pro Max IMI No. 358245525569629	*****	
3	Mobile Phone I-Phone, 16 Pro Max IMI No. 350970409795176	*****	

Annexure-5

Details of Cash Seized (PF No.84/2025)

Sl. No	Details of Cash Seized (Amount in Rs.)
1	Rs.1,75,000/- (One Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/647/2026-27

China warns US over Taiwan arms sales ahead of Trump-Xi summit

US is legally bound to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself

BEIJING/TAIPEI, REUTERS

China reiterated its strong opposition to US arms sales to Taiwan on Wednesday, calling on Washington to honour its commitments ahead of US President Donald Trump's arrival in Beijing for a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The issue of democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, and weapons sales to Taipei is expected to feature prominently during two days of meetings between Trump and Xi this week.

The US is legally bound to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties. In December, the Trump administration announced an $11 billion weapons package for Taiwan, the largest ever approved.

Zhang Han said Taiwan was an internal issue and a matter for the Chinese people. "We firmly oppose the United States engaging in any form of military ties with China's Taiwan region, and firmly oppose the United States selling weapons to China's Taiwan region. This position is consistent and unequivocal," she said in Beijing.

Taiwan is the "core of China's core interests", and honouring commitments made by successive US administrations are "international obligations that the US side is duty-bound to fulfil", Zhang added.

Under Washington's "One China" policy, the US officially takes no position on Taiwan's sovereignty, but acknowledges — without accepting — Beijing's claim that the island is part of China.

Trump's visit comes less than a week after Taiwan's opposition-controlled parliament approved only two-thirds of a $40 billion special defence budget requested by President Lai Ching-te. The approved funding included US arms purchases but cut domestic programmes such as drone development.

A senior US official said on Sunday that Washington was disappointed by the reduced defence spending, which it believes falls short of Taiwan's security needs.

A senior Taiwan security official told Reuters that the greatest risk for Taipei was that Beijing could use the reduced budget to influence Trump.

China could "argue that Taiwan's legislature opposes buying weapons and that the US should respect the will of the Taiwanese people" in an attempt to persuade Trump to reduce or halt defence support for Taiwan, the official said.

Reuters reported in March that a second arms package worth about $14 billion could be approved after Trump returns from China, although its current status remains unclear.

On Tuesday, Lai, who rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, told the Copenhagen Democracy Summit that Taiwan was a "sovereign, independent nation" and a beacon of democracy that would not bow to pressure.

Zhang responded by saying Taiwan "has never been, and will never be, a country".

US President Donald Trump is escorted by China's Vice President Han Zheng (right) upon his arrival at Beijing Capital Airport in Beijing on Wednesday. AFP

Trump arrives in Beijing for meeting with Xi

US President Donald Trump landed in Beijing on Wednesday for a high-stakes summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping aimed at easing tensions between the superpowers, AFP reports from Beijing.

Giving a fist pump, Trump descended the steps of Air Force One after touching down at Beijing Capital International Airport, kicking off the first visit to China by a US president in nearly a decade. Right behind him were Tesla boss Elon Musk and Nvidia chief Jensen Huang -- potent symbols of the business deals that Trump hopes to sign between the world's biggest economies. While en route to Beijing, Trump said on social media he would "be asking President Xi, a Leader of extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic". Trump and Xi will hold talks at 10:00 am (0200 GMT) on Thursday in Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People. On Friday, they are set to have tea and a working lunch before Trump heads home.

India, UAE set to deepen energy relations

ADNOC may expand role in India's oil reserves

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) may commit to playing a larger role in expanding India's strategic petroleum reserves, as energy security is expected to be a key focus when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Friday.

The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) is expected to sign a new memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of the meeting between the two leaders in Abu Dhabi.

As the conflict involving Israel and the US against Iran, along with the broader tensions in West Asia, has placed India's energy security under pressure in recent months, New Delhi is also expecting another agreement with the UAE on the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a source in the Indian capital said.

Modi will leave New Delhi on Friday for a five-nation tour covering the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy. He is scheduled to return on May 20.

Sibi George said the prime minister and the UAE president would discuss bilateral issues, particularly energy cooperation, along with regional and international matters of mutual interest. "They will also discuss ways to advance the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, underpinned by strong political, cultural, economic and people-to-people links," George told reporters in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Modi's visit comes a fortnight after the UAE exited OPEC and the wider OPEC+ grouping. The move allows the UAE to expand crude production without output restrictions. India is keen to take advantage of the development to increase hydrocarbon imports from the UAE at a time of heightened volatility in global energy markets.

The UAE is among India's top three LPG suppliers, alongside Qatar and Saudi Arabia, accounting for around 26 to 40 per cent of the country's imports.

Will fulfil energy supply obligation to India: Russia

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Moscow has assured New Delhi that Russia will fulfil its obligation on energy supply to India as stipulated in agreements between the two sides, notwithstanding unfair competition from other countries.

"I can guarantee that India's interests — as they apply to Russian supplies — will not suffer. We will do everything to ensure that this unfair and dishonest competition does not damage our agreements," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said in an interview with a TV channel.

The interview with Russia Today was aired just before Lavrov arrived in New Delhi to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the BRICS nations. Lavrov had a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, his counterpart in New Delhi, on Wednesday, soon after flying in from Moscow.

The meeting took place amid the sanctions imposed by the United States and the rest of the West on the import of oil from Russia, as well as the West Asia conflict, triggering concerns in New Delhi over India's energy security.

"The complicated international situation also merits an open exchange of views, especially between two trusted partners," Jaishankar told Lavrov in his opening remarks. India recently turned down an offer from Russia to sell it liquefied natural gas (LNG) in view of the US sanctions, despite the crisis caused by the West Asia conflict.

Lavrov referred to the global energy market's "broader picture" and recalled the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines.

He also hit out at the United States for aggression in the Strait of Hormuz, and warned that the Bab el-Mandeb Strait "could also become a zone of confrontation".

"The ensuing damage to global energy markets would be immeasurable. In this regard, both in our relations with India and in the broader Eurasian context — within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation — it is important for us to develop solutions that ensure protection against the risks posed by such aggressive moves by Western countries aimed at breaking up the global economy and subordinating it to their self-serving interests," TASS quoted Lavrov telling Russia Today.

Philippine Senate in lockdown after gunshots fired

MANILA, REUTERS: Gunshots broke out in chaotic scenes at the Philippine Senate on Wednesday where troops had been deployed after a politician wanted by the International Criminal Court urged supporters to mobilise and thwart his imminent arrest.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr called for calm and said no government personnel were involved in the incident.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. "We will get to the bottom of this," Marcos said in a video message. "Was this encounter part of destabilisation? We will need to know."

Senator Ronald dela Rosa, a 64-year-old former police chief and the main enforcer of ex-Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody "war on drugs", had hours earlier urged people to turn out to block his arrest and handover to the ICC.

Marcos said no instruction had been given to apprehend him.

The Hague-based court on Monday unsealed an arrest warrant for dela Rosa, dated November, on charges of crimes against humanity, the same that 81-year-old Duterte is accused of as he awaits trial in the ICC following his transfer last year.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ನಂ:ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಆಯು/e-221654/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.05.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿಆರ್ಆರ್–1) ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ತತ್ವಗಳನ್ನಾಧರಿಸಿ ದರ ನಿಗದಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯ (ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಣಯದಂತೆ) ಸಂಧಾನಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ 0–20 ಗುಂಟೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತ ಅಥವಾ
2. ಟಿ.ಡಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಥವಾ
3. ಮಹಡಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ (ಎಫ್.ಎ.ಆರ್) ಅಥವಾ
4. ನಗದು ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮನಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ವಸತಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಅಥವಾ
5. 35:65 ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು (ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ 8385 ಚ.ಅಡಿ)

ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಮೇಲಿನ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರು ಒಂದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ/168/ಎಂಎನ್ಎಕ್ಸ್/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.10.2025ರಂತೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಪೈಕಿ 948 ಎಕರೆ 18.5 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 1894 ರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳ ಕೋರಿಕೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ, ಹಳೆಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತದ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಎಕ್ಸ್ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ನೀಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ/168/ಎಂಎನ್ಎಕ್ಸ್/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026ರಂತೆ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಈ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಘನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ಒಪ್ಪಿ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 543 ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಅವರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತ/ಎಕ್ಸ್ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ಮೊತ್ತ/ಇತರೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 73.00 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸುವ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾದ ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್–1 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿರುವ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಶೀಘ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಲಲಿತವಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ, ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಭೂಮಾಲಿಕರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ರೂಪದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವು/ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಮಯಾಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಒದಗಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಎಕ್ಸ್ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ರೂಪದ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳಿಗೆ/ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ/ಭಿತ್ತಿಚಿತ್ರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸದರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿರುವ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತರು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಆದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಅವಕಾಶದಂತೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಖುದ್ದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಆಯಾ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಶಾಖೆ	ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ
1	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–1	bdabbc1@gmail.com
2	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–2	bdabbc2@gmail.com
3	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–3	slaobbc3@gmail.com
4	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–4	bdaslao.bbc4@gmail.com
5	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–5	slaoprr05@gmail.com
6	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–6	bdaslaobbc6@gmail.com
7	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–7	slaoppr7@gmail.com
8	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–8	slaoprr8@gmail.com
9	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–9	bdaprr1@gmail.com

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸ್ಪ್: 9483166622 (24X7). @BDAOfficialGok

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Starmer's leadership woes overshadow House reopening

LONDON, REUTERS: Britain's grand State Opening of Parliament ceremony does not normally feature an elephant in the room. But on Wednesday, attention was dominated by speculation over an imminent leadership challenge that could force Prime Minister Keir Starmer from office before the summer and derail his government's agenda.

Starmer has spent days battling growing calls to resign after the Labour Party suffered heavy losses in local and regional elections. He had hoped the ceremonial address by King Charles III would help him reassert authority and refocus attention on governing.

Instead, the political pressure intensified.

At around 1000 GMT, The Times reported that Health Secretary Wes Streeting, seen as one of Starmer's strongest potential rivals, was preparing to resign and launch a leadership challenge.

Foreign students, including Indians, under ICE scanner for OPT fraud

WASHINGTON, PTI

The US Immigration and Cstoms Enforcement (ICE) said it has identified 10,000 foreign students, including several from India, who allegedly claimed to be working for highly suspect employers by misusing the Optional Practical Training (OPT) component of their visas.

OPT allows foreign nationals who enter the United States on student visas to work in the US for 12 months, or in some cases 24 months. The programme also enables students to transition to employer-sponsored H-1B visas.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, acting ICE Director Todd Lyons said the OPT component of the student visa programme had "become a magnet for fraud" and had been the subject of multiple investigations by the Department of Homeland Security.

"We've encountered cases involving espionage, biological threats, intellectual property theft, visa and employment fraud, and even scams targeting elderly Americans, all perpetrated by individuals abusing their status as students," Lyons said.

"Our nation will not tolerate security threats originating from the foreign student programme," he added.

Lyons and other officials outlined how federal investigators conducted site visits and identified cases in which OPT beneficiaries were allegedly being "managed" by employees based in India, in violation of programme rules requiring US-based training and supervision.

Lyons said the OPT programme, introduced during the administration of former President George W. Bush, had initially anticipated only a few thousand beneficiaries receiving training before returning home.

"Instead, OPT ballooned into an uncontrolled guest worker pipeline with hundreds of thousands of foreign students working in the United States. As the programme's size has exploded, so has the fraud," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Palestinian artists paint a mural of footballer Lamine Yamal, who waved a Palestinian flag during FC Barcelona's La Liga victory parade, on destroyed buildings in Gaza City on Wednesday. REUTERS

Bangladesh govt clears Padma barrage project

▸ Bangladesh on Wednesday approved a mega project to build a barrage on the Padma river, saying it would help "negate the negative impact" of India's Farakka Barrage upstream, PTI reports from Dhaka.

The development comes months before the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges Water Sharing Treaty is due to expire in December. The Padma river is known as the Ganges in India. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, approved the first phase of the Padma Barrage project at an estimated cost of Tk 34,497.25 crore (around USD 280 million), officials said. One of the project's main objectives is to store water on the Bangladesh side to "negate the negative impact of the Farakka Barrage" on the Ganges, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee told reporters after the meeting. He clarified, however, that issues concerning the 54 rivers shared by India and Bangladesh were not linked to the project. The minister said the barrage was being built in Bangladesh's national interest and did not require discussions with India.

800 Russian drones hit Ukraine

▸ A daytime Russian drone barrage mainly targeting western Ukraine killed at least six people and wounded dozens, the Ukrainian president said on Wednesday, in what appeared to be a pivot in Moscow's aerial bombardment strategy, AFP reports from Kyiv.

Russia has been pounding Ukrainian cities for more than four years but usually launches large-scale drone and missile attacks at night. "Since midnight, at least 800 Russian drones have already been launched," Zelenskyy said, adding that "six people have been killed" and dozens were injured, including children.

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt arrives for the screening of "La Vie d'une femme" (A Woman's Life) at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Wednesday. REUTERS

Farage faces probe over donation

▸ Nigel Farage, leader of the anti-immigration Reform UK party, is facing an investigation over a £5 million (US dollars 6.7 million) gift from a donor, AP/PTi reports from London.

Farage, whose party secured major victories in local and regional elections in the UK last week, was referred to the parliamentary standards commissioner for allegedly failing to declare the gift when he was elected. Farage has said the gift from Thailand-based cryptocurrency investor Christopher Harborne was not related to politics and was intended for personal security. A spokesman said Farage's office was in communication with the parliamentary watchdog and looked forward to resolving the matter.

Turkiye detains 324 IS suspects

▸ Turkish authorities have detained 324 people suspected of links to the Islamic State (IS) group in a nationwide operation, AP/PTI reports from Ankara.

A home ministry statement said the suspects were detained across 47 provinces and included individuals suspected of financing IS as well as people previously known to have been active in the group. "For the peace, unity and solidarity of our nation, we continue our operations tirelessly, day and night, 365 days a year," the ministry said. It did not provide further details or say whether any of those detained were foreign nationals. Türkiye has carried out similar raids in the past. IS has been responsible for several deadly attacks in Turkiye over the years, including a shooting at an Istanbul nightclub during New Year celebrations in 2017 that killed 39 people.

Princess of Wales Catherine greets people outside Reggio Emilia's town hall as part of a two-day official visit to Italy on Wednesday. AFP

Biz Bytes

Tata Motors Q4 net rises 34%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Commercial vehicle-maker Tata Motors Ltd on Wednesday reported a 33.8% rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,793 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, driven by strong volume growth.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,340 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding financial year, Tata Motors said in a filing.

Total revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 26,098 crore, as against Rs 21,863 crore in the year-ago period. Vehicle wholesales in the quarter stood at 1.32 lakh units, up 25% from the year-ago period.

Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 24,134 crore, compared to Rs 24,134 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said.

TVS Motor Q4 net jumps 17.5%

NEW DELHI, PTI: TVS Motor Company Ltd on Wednesday reported a 17.5% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 819.55 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, driven by robust vehicle sales.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 697.51 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal, TVS said in a filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 15,052.73 crore, against Rs 11,542 crore in a year ago, it added.

During the quarter, overall two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales, including international business, grew by 28% to 15.60 lakh units, against 12.16 lakh units in the year-ago period, TVS said.

Motorcycle sales in the fourth quarter grew by 23% to 6.93 lakh units, as against 5.64 lakh units in the same period last fiscal, while scooter sales for the quarter ended March 2026 grew by 32% to 6.60 lakh units from 5.02 Lakh units in Q4FY25.

'AI could unlock addl $500 bn in value for India by 2030'

Study says total AI talent needed in India will be 350 mn+

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) could add more than $500 billion to India's economy by 2030, revealed a new study by the IBM Institute for Business Value and IndiaAI.

Four in five business leaders said AI investment will directly shape the country's GDP growth. At the same time, 74% know that technology alone will not deliver it—governance, social infrastructure, and skills must evolve just as fast.

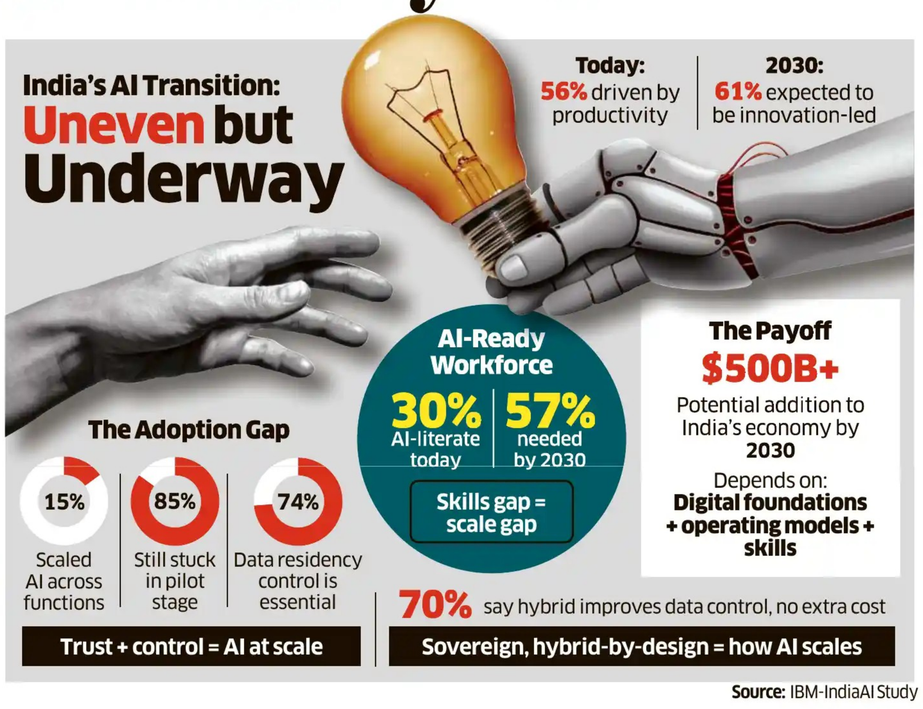
The country's enterprises are signalling a turn to AI at scale. According to the findings, 62% of Indian enterprises expect to be scaling AI by 2030. The next wave of AI scale in India will depend on platforms that can move data and insights instantly and securely, across the enterprise and beyond, it said.

When it comes to AI literacy among employees, the current rate is 30%, and executives have stated that they need this number to nearly double by 2030, with 57% of their 600 million-person workforce expected to be AI-literate. This suggests that the total AI talent needed in India will be more than 350 million by 2030.

S Krishnan, Secretary-MeitY, Government of India, said, "India is no longer just participating in the global AI conversation; we are helping shape it. Our vision is clear. AI must evolve as an extension of our people's aspirations, driving inclusive growth and national progress."

For India, AI is more than a technological milestone—it is a force that can widen opportunity and strengthen public services, he added.

Though 73% of executives said India would rank among the world's top AI nations by 2030, about 72% admit that their organisations are still behind global peers today in AI adoption.



Source: IBM-IndiaAI Study

Highlighting the $500-billion opportunity, the findings also noted that this stands in contrast to systemic barriers, including skill shortages, governance gaps, and infrastructure constraints. "If India can align its enterprise strategies, industry ecosystems, and global positioning, it will not just participate in the AI economy; it will define its direction and rules. If India gets this alignment right, AI becomes more than a technology shift," the report added.

"AI has the potential to become one of the most-powerful growth engines for India's economy," said Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India & South Asia.

"What will set India apart is not just the scale of adoption, but how organisations build trusted AI agents and systems on strong data foundations, hybrid architectures, and a workforce empowered to work alongside AI. With the right investments in skills, governance, and infrastructure, India can translate AI ambition into sustained economic impact," he added.

Rupee crashes to record 95.80 against US dollar

Settles near all-time low at 95.66

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee on Wednesday slipped to an all-time low of 95.80 against the US dollar, and settled at 95.66 near its record closing low level, as the cumulative strain of elevated crude prices and West Asia geopolitical concerns offset hopes of lower demand for the US dollar due to import curbs.

Forex traders said possible RBI intervention and duty-led compression of gold imports helped moderate further weakness for the USD/INR pair, but the rupee was pressured by the trajectory of crude and the West Asia situation.

The rupee has become the worst-performing currency in Asia for the year, registering a loss of over 6% so far this year, as elevated crude oil prices, a strong dollar and concerns regarding the West Asia crisis weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 95.52, registering a gain of 16 paise from its previous all-time closing low.

In a highly volatile trade, the USD/INR pair witnessed an intra-day high of 95.51 and a low of 95.80 against the greenback, before settling at 95.66, up 2 paise from its previous close.

The rupee depreciated 40 paise to close at a fresh all-time low of 95.68 against the US dollar on Tuesday.

"On the rupee, USD/INR around 95.60 reflects the cumulative strain of elevated crude prices and the West Asia geopolitical premium. Active RBI intervention and the duty-led compression of gold imports should help moderate further weakness. The path of the rupee from here will be shaped less by gold and more by the trajectory of crude and the West Asia situation," Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.51, up 0.22%.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.44% to $107.30 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex settled marginally up by 49.74 points at 74,608.98, while the Nifty gained 33.05 points to 23,412.60.

Air India to cut over 100 weekly international flights

NEW DELHI, PTI: Air India will cut nearly 100 overseas flights and temporarily suspend services on seven routes, including Delhi-Chicago, that will result in up to 27% reduction in the loss-making airline's international capacity, as it grapples with mounting operational costs due to airspace curbs and high jet fuel prices.

The airline, which has already reduced flights on certain routes, on Wednesday said the latest announced rationalisation of services will be in place during the June-August period.

A combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record high jet fuel prices for international operations, are significantly impacting the commercial viability of certain planned services, Air India stated.

An official said there will be around 27% reduction in the international capacity or seats offered on various routes as part of the rationalisation.

More than 100 weekly or over 400 monthly international services will be reduced during the next three months, as per calculations based on details of flight reductions provided by the airline in the statement.

The carrier will be temporarily suspending services on Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Newark, Mumbai-New York, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka, and Delhi-Male routes till August.

While announcing the rationalisation of services, Air India also said it "may make further adjustments to its network, should the extraordinary operating environment prevail".

RBI likely to pay record dividend to govt this year

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to pay the highest-ever dividend to the government, providing the Centre with a fiscal cushion to address challenges arising from the West Asia crisis, sources said.

Last year, the RBI made a record dividend payout of Rs 2.69 lakh crore to the Centre for 2024-25, 27% higher than Rs 2.11 lakh crore transferred in the previous year.

RBI may decide about dividend quantum in its board meeting expected to be held during this month, sources said. The transferable surplus for any financial year is arrived at on the basis of the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF), as approved by the Central Board of the RBI.

The revised framework stipulates that the risk provisioning under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 7.50% to 4.50% of the RBI's balance sheet.

As per the Budget documents, the Centre expects Rs 3.16 lakh crore in dividends and surpluses from the RBI, nationalised banks, and financial institutions in 2026-27, up about 3.75% over the current fiscal. The government had made conservative estimates, sources said, dividend payouts would exceed the Budget Estimate for FY27 as public sector banks (PSBs) have also posted a record profit in FY26.

Fuel price hike

Meanwhile, according to Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the government might have to hike petrol and diesel prices if the West Asia crisis continues for a longer period.

Speaking at a conference in Switzerland on Tuesday, Malhotra highlighted that the Centre has been rather fiscally prudent and on the path of fiscal consolidation.

The West Asia conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted oil and gas supplies, pushing energy prices higher.

India is highly dependent on imports of energy and fertilisers, Malhotra said, adding that the current disruptions are beginning to impact India.

Bharti Airtel Q4 net profit drops 33.5% to Rs 7,325 crore

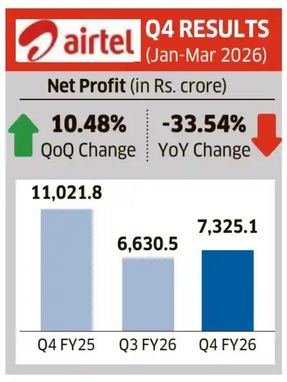
NEW DELHI, PTI: Bharti Airtel posted a 33.5% decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 7,325 crore for the March 2026 quarter, mainly due to one-time provisions related to statutory and tax liabilities, according to a filing.

The company's annual revenue for the first time crossed Rs 2 lakh crore, driven by 3.2% customer growth to 66.5 crore, coupled with an increase in average revenue per user (ARPU) in India.

Airtel had posted PAT of Rs 12,476 crore in the March 2025 quarter due to a one-time gain in the period.

"During the quarter ended March 31, 2026, based on reassessment and updated demands received, the group has recognised a charge of Rs 31,607 million on account of regulatory and government levies and corresponding deferred tax asset of Rs 1,402 million on certain items," the company filing said.

According to the filing, Airtel has reversed deferred tax liabilities amounting to Rs 3,095.2 crore, which is no longer a difference between the group's carrying value of its investment and tax base.



The company, however, posted a 38.7% growth in net income to Rs 7,245 crore during the reported quarter, from Rs 5,223 crore a year ago. Bharti Airtel's consolidated profit, attributed to the owners of the parent, was Rs 11,021.8 crore in the year-ago period. The consolidated revenue from operations of Bharti Airtel surged 15.6% to Rs 55,383.2 crore in Q4 FY26 from Rs 47,876.2 crore a year ago, with growth accelerated by a 40% jump in the Africa business.

WazirX's Crypto Futures trading

BENGALURU, DHNS: WazirX on Wednesday launched Crypto Futures trading, bringing crypto derivatives to Indian traders with a fee structure that makes professional-grade trading accessible to everyone. WazirX Futures will have a maker fee of 0.02% and a taker fee of 0.04%. This is among the lowest fee, with no volume threshold needed to access it. Users can also access Futures directly with INR, without converting to USDT before opening a position, it claimed.

Uber to set up data centre with Adani

BENGALURU, DHNS: Uber has partnered with Adani Group to establish its first data centre in India. The CEO of the ride-hailing firm, Dara Khosrowshahi, met Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, to build on its existing partnership with the group.

"As India fast-emerges as a leading innovation hub for Uber, we are setting up our first data centre in the country with the Adani Group to test and deploy our tech. Ready later this year, this investment will help us build at scale - from India, for the world," the CEO said in a post on X.

PRICEY SHINE

As gold duty climbs, industry bets on recycling and monetisation

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Centre raising customs duties on gold and silver to curb purchases and reduce imports in a bid to conserve forex reserves, the bullion industry expects demand for precious metals to weaken and fears a rise in smuggling. Meanwhile, the sector is calling for a revamp of the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) and other measures to shield against aftershocks.

The new effective import duty on gold and silver stands at 15%, comprising a 10% basic customs duty and a 5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC). This reverses the tariff reduction from mid-2024, when duties had been cut to 6%, to boost the domestic gems and jewellery industry and curb smuggling. India had similarly raised gold import duty to 15% in 2022 to check the current account deficit amid a falling rupee triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

India's gold imports surged more than 24% to an all-time high of $71.98 billion in FY26, straining forex reserves. The CAD widened from 0.2% of GDP in Q1 FY26 to 1.3% in Q3 FY26, while the trade deficit rose to $93.6 billion. The rupee also hit a record low of Rs 95.63 against the US dollar. "The duty hike—reinstating the 2022 tariff level—is the government's bluntest tool to curb non-essential dollar outflows," said Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont.

Chainani added that the higher duty is expected to raise domestic premiums and soften jewellery demand, especially with gold prices already elevated. Demand for gold coins and ETFs could also moderate, while retail jewellery prices may rise another 8-10%. "Domestic sales volumes could fall 10-15% in H1 FY27," she added.

The World Gold Council estimates that every 1% rise in import duty reduces consumer gold demand by around 6.4 tonnes, implying that the latest hike could suppress demand by nearly 57 tonnes annually. "Higher import duties could also revive gold smuggling, which had eased substantially after the 2024 duty reduction," Chainani said.

Deveya Gaglani, Senior Research Analyst—Commodities, Axis Direct, said, "We estimate that the increase in duty to 15% could result in a 10-12% decline in official gold import volumes, as consumers may increasingly turn to recycling old gold or investing in paper gold."

RENISHA CHAINANI
Head of Research at Augmont

"The duty hike – reinstating the 2022 tariff level – is the government's bluntest tool to curb non-essential dollar outflows,"

The price impact has already been sharp. According to Kabir Kate, CMO of Solitario, gold prices in Delhi jumped Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,56,800 per 10 grams on the day the duty came into effect, while silver prices surged Rs 12,000 to Rs 2,77,000 per kg. He added that the cumulative burden of customs duty, GST and cess would now make gold costlier by about Rs 27,000 per 10 grams, compared to Rs 13,500 earlier.

Accordingly, industry players are pushing for measures to monetise idle gold holdings. India imports 700-800 tonnes of gold annually, even as households and institutions are estimated to hold 25,000-35,000 tonnes in jewellery, coins and bars.

Malabar Gold Chairman MP Ahammad said India possesses one of the world's largest privately-held gold reserves, while continuing to rely heavily on imports, adding that responsible utilisation, recycling and circulation of existing gold should become a national priority.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has also urged the government to promote lower-carat jewellery, encourage exchange of old gold for new jewellery, and revamp the GMS.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/05/2026-27 Dated 08/05/2026

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from OEM/authorised dealers for supply of the following item on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Number and Brief Item Description : P2256302A, Design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of new outdoor type 1600KVA, 11kV/433Volts, 3 phase, 50 Hz, Level-3 energy efficient / BEE Star rated-3 Distribution Transformer and LT Bus duct with associated works in New GFM Sub-station as per RWF Specification No.RWF/EL/P/2025-26/05. **Quantity** : 1 Set. **Tender Closing Date and Time :** 01/06/2026 14:00 hrs.

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/P2/06/2026-27 Dated 13/05/2026

Tender Number and Brief Item Description : P3265025, SPARE PARTS OF ALLEN BRADLEY (ROCKWELL AUTOMATION) MAKE (4 ITEMS). 1. 5069-L306ER Compact Logix 600KB Enet Controller. **Quantity :** 08 Nos. 2. 5069-IA16 digital 16-point AC input module. **Quantity** : 36 Nos. 3. 5069-0A16 digital 16-point output module supporting both 120 and 240V AC Signals. **Quantity :** 21 Nos. 4. 5069-AENTR EtherNet/IP Adapter. **Quantity :** 18 Nos. **Tender Closing Date and Time :** 09/06/2026 14:00 hrs.

Tender corrigendum can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents, Specification and the corrigendum to the Tender will be available on the portal only.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 08/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW–4 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ; 19.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 21.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 1 (ಒಂದು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.800.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿ&ಎ/115/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/Bgkt/SEE(O)/AEE-8/F-2/26-27/2866-73 Date: 12.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tender on electronic mode for the following works including Supply of equipment's/materials, Erection, Civil works, Testing and Commissioning on **Total Turnkey basis** for the following Bid Enquiry No's.

1)KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STND-56/26-27/ Mudalagi Tender No.KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_ INDENT3704 for Replacement of 110KV Flexible bus with I Beam structure by 110KV rigid bus and 110KV GOS at 110/11KV **Mudalagi** under Operations division KPTCL, Belagavi. **Reserved Category :** CAT-II(A)

2)KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/F-57/26-27/AEQUS lineinsulatorwork Tender No.KPTCL/2026-27/TL/ WORK_INDENT3706 for Replacement of age old 90kN & 120kN Disc insulators by Polymer Disc insulators for **220kV Belagavi-Aequs (Chikkodi)** Transmission line 1&2 in TLM Section Belagavi . **Reserved Category :** CAT-II(A)

3)KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H55/26-27/ 220KVTB Tender No.KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_ INDENT3702 for Modification in the existing 220kVs Terminal Bay of 220kV Doni 1 & 2 lines at **220kV Station Gadag** due to strengthening of 220kV Gadag-Doni DC line by replacing Drake Conductor by HTLS Conductor in Gadag Taluk & District.

The tenders will be received through E-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16:30 Hrs IST of 14.05.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
Opp. Sector. No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103

The 10th-century idol of Begur Durga, known locally as Gangamma, at the lake outlet where it was rescued. PHOTO: PERUMAL VENKATESAN

The lake guardians

Udaya Kumar P L traces the network of Durga and Chamundi idols around Bengaluru's lakes

Tucked away in the village of Marasur Madivala, off Hosur Road between Chandapura and Attibele, far from Bengaluru's glass towers, stands one of the most extraordinary sculptures the city has ever produced. An eight-armed Chamundi, carved over a thousand years ago, holds her pose with such geometric precision that recent 3D scanning by The Mythic Society confirmed that her sculptors followed the strict proportional canon of Talamana, an ancient Indian system where every part of a figure is sized in multiples of the face.

She holds the *damaru*, the *trishula* and the *kapala* — drum, trident, skull bowl — and yet her face is composed, almost meditative. A serpent crosses her chest while a *rundamala* of severed heads hangs at her waist. Unlike the gaunt Chamundas of northern India, this 10th-century goddess is fierce without being grotesque, anticipating the refinement Hoysala sculptors would bring to stone two centuries later.

A nearly identical sister figure stands at the Chowdeshwari Temple in Dasarahalli, almost certainly the work of the same workshop of master artisans. And she is no isolated marvel.

She is one of at least eight ancient Durga and Chamundi idols recorded across Bengaluru — at Bhoopsandra, Hesaraghatta, Dodda Gubbi, Kalkere, Begur, Marasur Madivala, Dasarahalli and Bellandur. Their placement was not random. Almost every one of them stands beside a *kere* — installed, the records suggest, as a divine guardian of the water.

The oldest of them survives at Bhoopsandra, near Hebbal Lake. Dated by its palaeography to around 750 CE, it is likely the earliest worshipped deity in Bengaluru that survives today. The sculpture is a four-armed goddess standing atop a buffalo's head, holding a sword, a trident, a conch and a bowl — the iconography of an 8th-century Mahishasuramardini.

The 10th-century Durga idol at Dodda Gubbi, a sentinal of Bengaluru's lakes.

The Bhoopsandra Durga idol, with its grant inscription, is likely the oldest worshipped deity in Bengaluru. 3D SCAN BY THE MYTHIC SOCIETY

The inscription beneath her records a grant to the goddess, witnessed by four named villagers — Padiltumbu, Manchageya, Karuveeda and Nallolamoleya. It closes with a striking curse: anyone who violates the grant will bear the sin of killing a Kapile, a sacred orange-brown cow, in Varanasi.

The pattern repeats around the city. At Hesaraghatta, the Durga emerges only when the lake recedes, a silent sentry on the exposed bed, vanishing again as the waters rise. Few images bind the goddess and the lake more visibly.

At Begur, a magnificent 10th-century Durga, locally known as Gangamma, once stood watch over the ancient lake. The deity was not just worshipped beside the water; she was its guardian. Protecting the lake was, in this view, a sacred duty.

Saved by a thread

That sacredness, however, has not always saved the idols. The Bhoopsandra Durga idol was pushed into a water inlet during the construction of the Outer Ring Road in the late 1990s. The idol survived only by the alertness of the then Hebbal railway station master, Rao, and some local citizens.

At Begur, the Durga idol faced a similar threat during recent lake renovation work, when it was pushed into the lake outlet; it was rescued and is now preserved at the Panchalingeshwara temple. The Marasur Madivala Chamundi, according to local oral tradition, was once submerged in a lake for years before being recovered and reinstalled by the community generations later. But not every idol has been so fortunate. A 10th-century Durga documented at Pattandur Lake is now untraceable.

A shared responsibility

Ancient idols of Durga and Chamundi found standing near lakes at Bhoopsandra, Hesaraghatta, Dodda Gubbi, Kalkere, Begur, Marasur, Madivala, Dasarahalli and Bellandur in Bengaluru are not merely symbols of divine presence. They reflect a time when water bodies were revered as sacred spaces, and their protection was both a spiritual duty and a shared responsibility of the community

The spirit of the commons

These idols belong to the same worldview as the 1340 CE Ramasamudra inscription, which records the construction of a lake as an act of *punya* — merit shared between the community and nature. In that world, water was not merely a resource. The goddess atop the buffalo's head was not just a religious figure; she was the visible sign of a community's responsibility to its water.

These eight idols carry that idea forward. As Bengaluru once again confronts water challenges, they remind us of a time when protecting a lake was both a community duty and a sacred obligation.

(The author is the Honorary Project Director, the Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation project, The Mythic Society)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A vanishing tradition

Shrinidhi Adiga writes about Hownderayana Valgu, a tradition that survives in a handful of coastal villages

Hownderayana Valgu, also known as Kodangi Kunitha or Tulasikatte Kunitha, is a rare ritualistic art form from the Kundapur region of coastal Karnataka. Blending music, dance, storytelling, trance and worship, the art survives today in a handful of villages, preserved mainly through oral tradition.

According to local beliefs, the tradition traces its origins to Barkur, one of the important administrative centres of Tulunadu between the 11th and the 14th centuries, and is associated in oral narratives with a ruler named Howndarasa, who is said to have enjoyed songs sung in his praise. Villagers would thus compose songs in his honour and dance in groups, receiving gifts in return. Over time, these songs evolved into the ritualistic art of Hownderayana Valgu. In Kannada, the term *valagu* or *valaga* refers either to a royal reception hall or to a musical instrument, though its exact association with the art form remains unclear.

As part of the tradition today, people invite a troupe to perform in front of their house during Tulsi Pooje falling in the Hindu calendar month of Karthika or during the conclusion of Vasantha, a ritual associated with goddess Tulsi performed during a non-Karthika month.

Vijayendra Kumar Gundmi, a performer who leads a troupe from Parampalli in Saligrama, notes those who arrange Vasantha at their houses organise Hownderayana Valgu. A Vasantha can be celebrated with offerings ranging from a single bunch of bananas to 200, 300 or 1,000 bananas, depending on the devotee's vows. A grand Vasantha programme attracts a gathering of around 2,000 audience.

Traditional attire

Performers traditionally wear a white dhoti, a cloth tied around the waist and head, a headgear, ankle bells, and a *pingara* (areca inflorescence) held in the hand and tied to the waist. A troupe consists of at least 10 male members. A lead singer narrates the story, while the others respond in chorus with the refrain: "*Hownderayana Valguva, Hownderaya Govinda...*"

The performance has six narrative segments known as *sandhis*, each marked by distinct dance movements. Overall, the programme lasts between 90 minutes and two hours.

As per the artists, most *sandhis* are performed in Kundapur Kannada while some use a more Sanskritised language, suggesting that parts of the performance may have been added over time. Unlike the earlier *sandhis*, these later portions do not end with the familiar refrain.

Regional variations

The performance has regional variations too. In the Kundapur–Brahmavara belt, it remains relatively structured. In the Byndoor–Bhatkal region, villagers join in the singing.

Despite its presence across the coast, references to Hownderayana Valgu can hardly be seen in any books. According to *Kailiya Kareda Norehalu*, a book on folk songs of Dakshin Kannada, written by Gundmi Chandrashekhar Aithal, Hownderayana Valgu is associated with the worship of Varuna, the God of rain.

K Shivaram Karanth briefly refers to the tradition in his Jnanpith-winning novel *Mookajjiya Kanasugalu*. In the book, he notes that in the Byndoor region, the sea was locally known as *Soundra*, a term believed to have gradually evolved into *Houndra*. He explains the overall meaning of the word Hownderayana Valgu as 'Play of the Sea God'. However, even in this account, the association of the term *Valagu* with the art form is not explained in detail.

Kundapur Kannada dictionary states that this term, is sometimes, used sarcastically to refer to "a group of idle people with nothing better to do than waste time."

Today, only a handful of groups continue to perform Hownderayana Valgu in coastal Karnataka. Despite its artistic and ritual significance, the tradition has received little institutional recognition or systematic documentation.

"Our repeated appeals to cultural authorities and elected representatives for preservation efforts have produced little response," says Vijayendra.

Without systematic documentation, archival work and state support, Hownderayana Valgu risks disappearing along with the memories of the few artists who still carry it forward.

Artists perform Hownderayana Valgu in a village in Kundapur near Udupi.

An Asian openbill stork

Where the Cauvery cradles birdlife

Siddu R G Halli writes about two long-term initiatives focused on the structural and ecological conservation of Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

At Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, the Cauvery river flows into a network of small islands and islets that sustains one of Karnataka's most important bird habitats. Spread across 67.49 hectares near Srirangapatna in Mandya district, the sanctuary supports over 220 bird species and functions as a nesting and breeding ground for both resident and migratory birds.

The sanctuary's ecology rests on six river islands and several islets that offer birds safe nesting spaces, cut off from land predators such as foxes and cats. Between November and December, migratory birds arrive here in large numbers, build nests, lay eggs and raise their young before leaving by June.

But this fragile system is repeatedly tested. Seasonal flooding in the Cauvery basin, heavy rainfall in the catchment and water releases from a dam often submerge the islands. This erodes the soil, reshapes the edges and weakens the nesting grounds.

In an effort to find a sustainable solution, the Mysuru Wildlife Division of the Forest Department has shifted focus from temporary fixes to structural protection, as earlier measures such as sandbag bunds and vegetation planting offered only short-term relief to the islands.

Deputy Conservator of Forests I B Prabhugouda said that the department is now testing a more durable approach. On three islands, gabion structures that are wire mesh cages filled with stones and soil are being constructed along the edges. The idea is to stabilise the banks and reduce erosion, effectively wrapping the islands in a protective frame that can withstand strong water flow.

Gabion structures being constructed along the edge of an island at Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

If successful, the model will be extended across all islands in the sanctuary, Prabhugouda added.

According to K Manu, a wildlife enthusiast, gabion structures are eco-friendly and can last for a long time when filled with stone jalli. Since the bags holding the sand wither out in a few years and the sand begins sinking, and permanent concrete structures cannot be built on the islands, gabion structures offer the most suitable solution.

"They are also economical, require little to no maintenance and have a longer lifespan," he added.

Field learning

Alongside this ecological intervention runs another effort focused on people. The Forest Department has introduced a programme called Pakshi Mitra at Ranganathittu, aimed at school students from Mysuru and Mandya districts. The initiative seeks to connect classroom learning with field experience in bird ecology and conservation.

Students from Classes 8 to 10 are brought in groups to the sanctuary. Their visit follows a structured format: arrival by 8 am in Forest Department vehicles, a short written assessment on environment and birdlife, followed by a presentation by the forest personnel introducing the sanctuary.

Students then experience a boat ride along the Cauvery and take part in guided birdwatching sessions before being assessed again in the evening to evaluate what they have learnt during the day.

So far, around 1,200 students have visited the sanctuary and have become 'Pakshi Mitras'.

Ranganathittu Environmental Education Officer S Gagana says the programme is offered free of cost.

The focus, she notes, is not only exposure but also measurable learning outcomes — linking awareness with experience in a landscape where both ecology and conservation are constantly shaped by water, islands and human intervention.

Pelicans and large egrets at the bird sanctuary. DH PHOTOS/ ANUP RAGH T

Students visit the bird sanctuary as part of Pakshi Mitra initiative.

Kickstart FC's Aruna Bag (left) celebrates with team-mates after scoring the winner against Garhwal United in Kolkata.

Aruna's sublime freekick wins it for Kickstart

BENGALURU, DHNS: A fine 41st-minute free-kick goal by Aruna Bag proved enough as Kickstart FC defeated relegation-threatened Garwhal United 1-0 in the Indian Women's League in Kolkata on Tuesday.

This was the fourth consecutive victory for Kickstart, who have now recovered from the bottom two to the third spot and are four points behind second-placed Sethu FC with two rounds to go.

The goal came after KFC's Nepalese midfielder Renuka Nagarkote was fouled from behind by right outside the box by Elizabeth Danso. Full-back Aruna took the free kick with precision as she shot it over the wall and into the top corner.

Meanwhile, East Bengal became back-to-back champions with two rounds to spare as they defeated fourth-placed Nita FA 2-0.

Decider rescheduled

Second-placed FC Bengaluru United's crucial I-League 2 title decider against dead last MYJ-GMSC was rescheduled by a day to May 15. The match, to be played at Mumbai's Neville D'souza Ground, will kick off at 3:30 pm, alongside United SC vs Delhi FC in Kalyani, West Bengal.

FCBU, who are two points behind the leaders Delhi FC, will hope for a positive outcome with both the title and promotion (top two finishers) at stake.

The last-minute rescheduling, however, didn't help the clubs, especially the travelling teams, as they had to cancel and rebook flights. One of the teams also had to change hotel arrangements as the venue was also changed to another part of the city.

SWIMMING

BAC overall champions

Dharshan, Tanishi emerge top swimmers in the State Championships

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hosts Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (BAC) emerged champions of the KSA State Senior Swimming Championships as they finished the three-day event with a dominating points haul of 545 here on Wednesday.

Their swimmer Dharshan S became the individual champion in the men's section with two state records and 43 points to his name, while Dolphin Aquatics' Tanishi Gupta bagged the women's honour with 53 points and three state records.

The champion duo continued their medal show with Dharshan winning the 800m freestyle and 200m butterfly individual events while Tanishi reigned supreme in women's 50m butterfly.

Further state records also fell on the day as Dolphin's Vidith S Shankar clocked 28.58 seconds in the men's 50m butterfly to break Likith SP's six-year-old record of 28.69.

S Lakshya also broke another record as she won the 200m breaststroke with a record timing of 2:40.86 while surpassing Thanya S's old record by more than 2 seconds.

Overall champions Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre pose with their spoils at the State Senior Swimming Championships on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results: Men: 50m breaststroke: Vidith S Shankar (DA) 28.58 (MR; Old: 28.69, Likith SP, 2019), 1; Surya Jhoyappa O R (BAC) 30.06, 2; Pruthvik D S (BAC) 30.41, 3. **200m backstroke:** Akash Mani (BAC) 2:04.62, 1; Vedanta V M (BAC) 2:07.28, 2; Aman Abhijit Sungar (DA) 2:10.67, 3. **200m butterfly:** Dharshan S (BAC) 2:02.57 (MR; Old: 2:03.21, Rehan Poncha 2009), 1; Shivank Vishwanath (BAC) 2:07.03, 2; Anish Aniruddha Kore (BAC) 2:08.21, 3. **200m breaststroke:** Manikanta L (BAC) 2:21.10 (MR; Old: 2:22.41 Vidith Shankar, 2021), 1; Surya Jhoyappa O R (BAC) 2:23.49, 2; Daniel Paul J (BAC) 2:23.69, 3. **800m freestyle:** Dharshan S (BAC) 8:25.18, 1; Dhakshan S (BAC) 8:33.76, 2; Shivank Vishwanath (BAC) 8:34.09, 3. **4x100m freestyle relay:** Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A 3:42.48, 1; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre B 3:43.41, 2; Dolphin Aquatics A 3:47.52, 3. **Women: 50m freestyle:** Charitha Phanindranath (ESA) 26.78s, 1; Rujula S (DA) 27.23, 2; Nina Venkatesh (DA) 27.34, 3. **50m butterfly:** Tanishi Gupta (DA) 27.92 (MR; Old: 28.37, Nina Venkatesh 2023), 1; Nina Venkatesh (DA) 28.19, 2; Charitha Phanindranath (ESA) 28.23, 3. **200m breaststroke:** S Lakshya (BAC) 2:40.86 (MR; Old: 2:43.13, Thanya S, 2025), 1; Thanya S (JIRS) 2:42.83, 2; Lineysha A.K (DA) 2:49.29, 3. **800m freestyle:** Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 9:26.23, 1; Dhinidhi Desinghu (DA) 9:27.03, 2; Aditi N Mulay (BAC) 9:32.90, 3. **4x100m medley relay:** Dolphin Aquatics A 4:25.06 (MR; Old: 4:31.92, DA 2023), 1; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A 4:31.87, 2; Dolphin Aquatics B 4:33.01, 3. **4x200m freestyle relay:** Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A 8:57.08 (MR; Old: 9:00.31 BAC, 2023), 1; Dolphin Aquatics A 9:17.02, 2; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre B 9:23.84, 3. **Overall championship:** Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (545 points), 1; Dolphin Aquatics (285), 2. **Individual champions: Men:** Dharshan S (BAC), 43 points. **Women:** Tanishi Gupta (DA), 53 points.

Kriish, Manish march on

Stewart eases past Mukund; top seed Smith wins

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Strong serves, hitting deep and good ball striking were helping Kriish Tyagi skate through a large part of his round of 16 match against Yuta Kawahashi at the Karnataka Open here on Wednesday.

The Bengaluru boy's overall solid game had given Kriish an early break, which was enough for him to close out the first set 6-4. The wild card entrant then raced away to a 4-1 lead in the second set despite losing his own serve once.

But such a high, of everything working in one's favour, is a precarious place to be in on a tennis court. Kriish, while serving to extend the gap in the sixth game, experienced that volatility. The 19-year-old's desire to add more punch to his already strong first serves led to faults as the groundstrokes went long and within the blink of an eye, Kriish watched his serve broken to give the struggling Japanese a lease of life.

It wasn't that the mistakes from Yuta's racquet had drastically reduced, but Kriish getting carried away and making more unforced errors saw the world No. 637 Japanese crawl his way back to 3-4. With a make-or-break eight game staring heavily down the local lad, Kriish found his composure at the right time to hold 5-3. Though the 28-year-old Yuta stayed alive by grabbing the ninth game, Kriish ensured he ended the match in the same fashion he had begun by sending down big first serves to win four straight points for a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

In a tournament that began at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium with multiple Indians, Kriish, along with 26-year-old Manish Sureshkumar, are the only two remaining. And for both players, it will be their maiden ATP Challenger quarterfinal appearances.

For world No. 829 Manish, facing qualifier and world No. 293 Alastair Gray of England was sure going to be an ordeal. But the cool and calm Chennai man, with nothing to lose, started the contest with the right intent and was later aided by Lady Luck. Gray retired hurt while trailing 4-6, 2-3.

India's Kriish Tyagi returns during his win over Yuta Kawahashi of Japan in the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger at SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results: Singles (Pre-quarterfinals, prefix denotes seedings): 2-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) 6-4, 6-4; 5-Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Joshua Charlton (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Ilya Ivashka bt Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; 7-Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Amit Vales (Isr) 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-4; Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) bt Q-Alastair Gray (GBR) 6-4, 3-2 (retd); WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-4; 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Q-Christopher Papa (USA) 6-2, 6-3.

Sreejesh slams HI's foreign coach fixation

NEW DELHI, (PTI)

Former India goalkeeper and junior men's team coach PR Sreejesh on Wednesday publicly expressed his frustration over being removed from his role after just 17 months, questioning Hockey India's preference for foreign coaches despite his successful stint, a charge rejected by the national governing body.

In a strong-worded social media post, Sreejesh said that his tenure was brought to an end despite winning five medals in as many tournaments during his tenure which ended after the junior World Cup in November-December last year.

PR Sreejesh

Hockey India chose to advertise the post instead of extending Sreejesh's contract. He had re-applied for the job after first getting the position in August 2024.

"It's seems like my coaching career comes to an end after 1.5 years, during which we played 5 tournaments and secured 5 podium finishes, including a Junior World Cup bronze medal," Sreejesh posted on X.

"I have heard about coaches getting fired after bad performances. But this is the first time I am experiencing being removed to make way for a foreign coach."

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, however, clarified that Sreejesh was not "fired" from his coaching role, stating that his tenure ended in December 2025 as per contract and that a new appointment was made following a formal selection process.

"Hockey India would like to officially state that the coaching term for P.R. Sreejesh was officially concluded as per contract in December 2025. After this, as per protocol the position was advertised and applicants were shortlisted and finalised as per a proper selection process basis merit," Tirkey said in a statement issued by HI.

Revived Swiatek cruises past Pegula, Zverev shown the door

ROME, AFP: Iga Swiatek **(in pic)** gave another indication that she might be back to her brilliant best after destroying Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-2 on Wednesday and breezing into the Italian Open semifinals.

A three-time champion in Rome, Swiatek took little more than an hour to take care of fifth seed Pegula on centre court, in a show of force on her preferred surface not seen since she last won the French Open two years ago.

Swiatek has set up a clash with either second seed Elena Rybakina or Elina Svitolina, also in action on centre court on Wednesday, in the last four.

A potential decider with reigning Roland Garros champion Coco Gauff awaits for the winner of that last-four match-up in Saturday's final.

In the men's tournament Casper Ruud aims to reach his first Masters 1000 semifinal since winning in Madrid last year, the clay court specialist facing Karen Khachanov.

Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev suffered a shock exit at the hands of local hero in Luciano Darderi.

Sawe to compete in Berlin

BERLIN, AFP: Sabastian Sawe, who became the first person run a marathon in under two hours, will compete at the Berlin Marathon in September, race organisers announced on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old Kenyan smashed the previous world record when he ran the London Marathon in 1hr 59min 30sec in April wearing a new model of super shoes.

Now he will doubtless set his eyes on further lowering his historic time on September 27 at the Berlin Marathon.

Yashmith, Vijay steer Magadi Cricket Club home

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yashmith K Gowda and Vijay Subramanya slammed unbeaten half-centuries to power Magadi Cricket Club, Magadi to an emphatic 10-wicket win over Freelancers Cricket Club in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for 4th & 5th division clubs here.

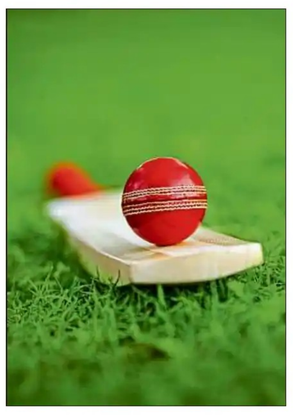
Brief scores: Freelancers Cricket Club: 115 all out in 23.3 overs (Amith R 34; Eshwara Pandian 3-34, Sriniket LM Saragur 2-28, Supreeth R 4-6) lt to Magadi Cricket Club, Magadi: 117/0 in 14.4 overs (Yashmith K Gowda 56 n.o., Vijay Subramanya 58 n.o.).

Sangam Cricket Association: 232 all out in 43 overs (Deepak Shridhar 79, Aditya KS 41; Rahul B 3-44, Punith HA 4-43) lt to Malleswaram United Cricket Club: 235/4 in 41.2 overs (Dhyan Suvarna 100 n.o, Eashan A 57 n.o.).

Young Cricketers (1): 166 all out in 32.2 overs (Karmanye Puri 35, E Sudharshan 31, Kishore V 30; Nikhil Gowda 4-42, A Narendrababu 3-6) lt to Star Sports Club, Nelamangala: 168/7 in 29.5 overs (Yashwant Gowda 46, Manjesh M 59 n.o.; Vasanth Kumar S 3-57, Kishore V 3-39).

Lions Cricket Club: 352 all out in 49.5 overs (Sujeet Kumar R 66, Abhinav Kulkarni 39, Rithik J 43, Asit Kumar 97; Arav Prasad 3-77) bt Eleven Brothers Cricket Club, Magadi: 160/9 in 35 overs (Manish Benjamin John 43, Sparsh Sankesara 44; Saleem Ali 3-23).

Sparklers Cricket Club: 199 all out in 45.2 overs (Aadyot Pandey 33, Mohammed Shamsheer 33, Kalash 32 n.o.; Binod Kumar Bk 4-33, Emon Bhanj 4-42) vs City Cricketers (2). Match was interrupted by rain, no further play was possible.



Southern Cricketers: 155 all out in 41.4 overs (Sooraj S A 32, Vivan BR 59; Aries KA 3-19, Yeshwanth 4-31) lt to National United Cricket Club: 156/5 in 28.3 overs (Dheeraj N 73 n.o., Yeshwanth 30 n.o.).

Victory Cricket Club: 123 all out in 33.4 overs (Deepak 6-26) lt to Bangalore Star Cricket Association: 110/3 in 24.2 overs (Akhil Rao 33 n.o.; Mahesh Patel BM 3-43) via VJD method. Match was interrupted by rain, no further play was possible.

Young Boys Cricket Association: 158 all out in 47.4 overs (Lohith Gowda 58; Gagan Suresh Kumar 4-32) vs Bangalore Indian Cricket Club. Match was interrupted by rain, no further play was possible.

Vikram Cricket Club: 111 all out in 41 overs (KA Aayush 36; Vaishnav D Sanghamiitra 3-14) lt to Friends Cricket Team: 112/3 in 14.2 overs (Abhishek AS 33, Viaan Joshi 50).

Chamarajpet Cricket Club: 272/6 in 50 overs (Shiva Kumar N 47, Aarnav Verma 43, Gaurav Saxena 44 n.o., Jimson Jerome 83 n.o.) bt Vivekanagar Cricketers: 94 all out in 25.4 overs (Samkrupakaran N 30; Gaurav Saxena 5-28).

Caravan Cricketers: 198 all out in 37.3 overs (Rahul GV 53, Shivanayaka M 30, Karthik SK 35; Shoheb Pasha 4-50, Manjunath Jayarama 4-39) vs Zodiac Cricket Club: 69/3 in 11 overs. Match was interrupted by rain, no further play was possible.

Jeevanbhimanagar Cricket Club: 229 all out in 41.2 overs (Pranam Seetharama Achar 38, Kayan Abbas 69, Mayur Poojary 33, CB Kumar 42; Pradeep 3-45, Vishal V Rao 2-40) bt Bangalore Sports Cricket Club: 75 all out in 19.1 overs (Aarav Bajaj 4-11).

Crescent Cricket Club (1): 171 all out in 33.5 overs (Syed Muteeb Uddin 46; Santosh Kumar Singh 3-43) bt Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 127 all out in 33.5 overs (Naveen Krishna P 30; Sandeep Agri 4-30, Prem Sagar P 3-39).

United Cricketers: 230 all out in 43.3 overs (Praveen Balraj J 66; 3-38) lt to Silky Town Cricket Club, Channapatna: 231/7 in 40.1 overs (Somashekara Murthy KS 81, Mohammed Kashif A 40; Raghavendra Babu K J 4-47).

YMCA (3): 75 all out in 28 overs (Sameer Hegde 2-18, Samarth HN 4-9, Sharav Koundinya 2-16) lt to Mount Joy: 76/3 in 13.5 overs (Avik Jha 46 n.o.; Ayush Barath 2-32).

Jawans CC: 217 all out in 41.2 overs (Shaurya Yadav 47, Ashwath Reddy Gade 53, Mahesh Kantharaj 27; Ayush Singh 2-18, M Samarth Karumbaiah 2-32, S Nikith Harsha 3-57, Vidit Mishra 3-30) bt Wilson Garden: 194 all out in 46.1 overs (Lohithaksha R 68, M Siddharth Karumbaiah 31; Vivaan Desai 3-34, Gundala Lalit Ramanareddy 2-22, Hari Om Ojha 2-37, Arnav Rajiv VP 2-32).

Sir Syed Cricketers: 97 all out in 34.4 overs (A Mithun Rao 2-11, Viresh Moktan 2-19, Yuvraj Ng 5-23) lt to Sapphire CC: 100/4 in 21.5 overs (Sangeeta Rao S 37; Aarith Gowda TN 2-18, Purab Soni 2-27).

Sanjit slams 99-ball 177 to sink Mathikere

BENGALURU, DHNS: A stunning 99-ball 177 by Sanjit Sathish powered Visweswarampuram Cricket Club (1) to a huge 352-run victory over Mathikere Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament.

LOCAL CRICKET

Sanjit doubled up with Advay Choudhary (112) to post 421 for the loss of eight wickets in 50 overs for Visweswarampuram.

In response, Mathikere's chase unravelled quickly at 69 all out in 27.3 overs with Avyay (2/5), Vedansh Pandey (2/15), Vivaan Balani (2/13) and Harish Kartik (2/7) doing the damage.

Brief scores: Visweswarampuram (1): 421/8 in 50 overs (Sanjit Sathish 177, Advay Choudhary 112, Rupankar Nandi 42, Swastik Ekhe 25; Rishi Udeshi 2-56, Manvik Mandanna PB 3-44) bt Mathikere CC: 69 all out in 27.3 overs (Avyay 2-5, Vedansh Pandey 2-15, Vivaan Balani 2-13, Harish Kartik 2-7).

Johnson CC: 162 all out in 36.4 overs (Amarkant Sharma 28, Rajdeep Banerjee 35; Vardhan M Jayaram 4-32, Vipin S 2-22, Puneeth Raj MN 2-29) lt to Young Cricketers (1): 166/8 in 41.5 overs (Vyom Sai Ranjith 43, Saideep S 26; Sai Velumury 2-39, G Bipin Shetty 4-34)

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್, ಎಂ.ಜಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು–575 003, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ.
ಫೋನ್: 0824–2220313–18, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0824–2220310
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.mangalurucity.mrc.gov.in

ಮ.ನ.ಪಾ/ಆರೋವಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–08/2026–27/ಜಿ11 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–05–2026

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಪಚ್ಚನಾಡಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ನಗರದಿಂದ ದಿನಂಪ್ರತಿ ಸಾಗಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರಿಂದ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗುವ ದ್ರವ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯದಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ದುರ್ವಾಸನೆಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ, ಆಧುನಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು, ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ನೀಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ನೂತನ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಲು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅಯ–ವ್ಯಯದ "ನಿನೂತನ ನಿಧಿ" (Innovation Fund) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಸದರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನ್ವಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕದ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ದುರ್ವಾಸನೆಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಆಧುನಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪರಿಹಾರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಸ್ತಾರವಾದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು 30 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಇಮೇಲ್ (mcchealth2018@gmail.com) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/195/26-27 dt.13.05.2026

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KOPPAL.

No:CMC/KKRDB GRANT/2026-27/235 Date: 12-05-2026

Tender Notification

Koppal City under Commissioner CMC koppal state Governor behalf of Transparency public storage act 2000 and KW-3, KW-4 rule, works Karnataka state government e-procurement portal in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in PWD Registers Contractor to Tender invite. Tender form Rate and EMD cost Specified in e-procurement portal

KKRDB Grant 2025-26: Name of Work:1 DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58258 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **80.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **100560.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above**

2 DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58257 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **90.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **113205.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above**

3 DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58256 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **80.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **100500.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above**

4 DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58253 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **75.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **47160.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above (Category -2A)**

5 DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58254 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **75.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **47153.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above (SC-Category)**

6 DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56919/CALL-3 Estimate Cost (In lakh): **100.00** EMD Cost (in Rs): **113000.00** Class of Eligibal Contractor: **Class-1 & Above**

Conditions: 1 Period of tender document download in govt e-procurement on-line apply last date. **20-05-2026** evening 4.30 PM 2 Technical bid open date **21-05-2026** Evening 4:30 PM 3 Financial bid open date : **22-05-2026** Evening 4:30 PM or bid open date after published 4 Similar Nature of work done Submitted as Per KW-3, KW-4 Releted Works 5 Tender Conditions and rules office hours technical dept or (https://www.koppalcity.mrc.gov.in) downlod the information in website 6 work complition period 3 months (Including Rainig Season) 7 Tender rejecteing autority CMC Office 8 For More information contact to state govt e-procurement portal website(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/81/KSMCA/2026-27

ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
CHIKKABALLAPURA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

ಸಿಟ್ರಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಮೇಡೋಸ್, 4ನೇ ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್, ತುಮಕಲಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562103. Sitrus City Meadows, 4th Sector, Tumakalahalli Village, B.B.Road, Chikkaballapur-562 103. Email ID:cuda.cbpur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08156–274501.

ಸಂ:ಚಿ.ನ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/Tender/03/2025-26 DATE: 12.05.2026

Invitation for Tender
(For Lake Works –As per standard Bid Document KW 4 in two cover system.)

(1) The Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority Invites Tenders from the eligible tenderers, for the construction of lake works detailed in the table below in Two cover document procedures as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **(2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurment website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (3)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **(4)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority during working hours **(5)** Head of account: Lake development Cess. **(1)** Pre-bid meeting on **20.05.2026, 11:00 AM (2)** submission of queries **19.05.2026, 12.00 AM (3)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **28.05.2026, 05:30 PM (4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid**: 31.05.2026, 11:00 AM (5)** Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **06.06.2026, 04:00 PM** or later. **Name of work: (1)** Development of Lake Bund, Entrance Arch and Toilets in Chitravathi Park by CUDA. (CKBUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1/CALL-2). (Amount put to tender Rs.3,84,09,508.33). In case of Any change in calendar of events, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. No separate paper notification will be given.

Sd/- Commissioner,Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:59/KSMCA/2026-27

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಐ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪ.ನ.ಪಾ.ಹಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.(ಶಿ)/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/64/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–05–2026

ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2026–27ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ರವರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ರವರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ :05–05–2025.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಮತ್ತು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 28–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 05–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 10–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ, 05–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು, 01–ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ 01–ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ, ಶೂ & ಕಾಲೂಚೀಲ, ಬ್ಯಾಗುಗಳು, ಸ್ವೆಟರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ (Desk) ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ/ ಮಳಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ವಿತರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ವಿವರ	ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ	18–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	–	425 ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ
2	ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,184	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
3	ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೂಚೀಲ	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,184	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
4	ಬ್ಯಾಗುಗಳು	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,848	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
5	ಸ್ವೆಟರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,848	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ

ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು : (1) ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 28–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 05–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 10–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ, 05–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು, 01–ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ 01–ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ದರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. (2) ಸದರಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ದರಗಳು ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. (3) ಶೀಲ್ಡ್ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19–05–2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ**ಯವರೆಗೆ. (4) ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19–05–2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"Really good performance by GT, they put us under a lot of pressure with the ball and then the opening pair set it up so well.

DANIEL VETTORI, SRH COACH

Macneil Noronha

Noronha replaces injured Ghosh at CSK

CHENNAI, PTI: Chennai Super Kings has selected Karnataka all-rounder Macneil Noronha as a replacement for injured all-rounder Ramakrishna Ghosh, an IPL media release stated on Wednesday.

"Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have picked a player replacement for Ramakrishna Ghosh, who injured his right foot during their game against Mumbai Indians on May 3rd. He has been ruled out for the season. Macneil Noronha will join CSK for Rs 30 lakh as a replacement for Ghosh," the release stated.

An all-rounder from Karnataka, Noronha was recently awarded the MA Chidambaram Trophy at the BCCI Naman Awards for being the highest run-getter in the 2024-25 Colonel CK Nayudu Trophy (U-23).

Following a stellar season, Noronha received a call-up from the Karnataka team for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, wherein he featured in three games for his state.

The 24-year-old scored a quickfire 34 and took a wicket against Tripura with his off-break.

Kohli aces another chase

Veteran slams unbeaten ton as Challengers reclaim pole position

RAIPUR, PTI

Virat Kohli roared back to form with a record-extending ninth hundred in the Indian Premier League to take Royal Challengers Bengaluru back to the top spot in the points table, with a six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday.

Kohli (105 not out off 60 balls) pumped his fists after taking a single in the first over for his first run in three matches, and he did not take long to impose himself on the game to produce another masterclass in run chase.

This was Kohli's ninth hundred overall in the IPL as he went past MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma for most matches (279) in the league. His unbeaten ton on Wednesday was also his first hundred since the 2023 edition. He also became the first Indian to score 14000 runs in T20 cricket. Kohli hit 11 fours and three sixes from the 60 balls he faced, and was never unfazed in a tall run-chase as RCB replied with 194/4 in 19.1 overs to KKR's 192/4.

Vaibhav Arora was all over the place in his first over as Kohli hit the first ball to mid-wicket off the pads, the fourth delivery past square leg off a flick, the fifth sprayed way outside off for the batter to free up his arms and the sixth angling down the wicket which was helped on its way.

Each of these deliveries were hit for boundaries and Kohli was off to a flier.

Jacob Bethell (15) too opened up, hitting Dubey for two fours and a six on the first three balls of the third over, helping RCB attain that 10-runs-per-over momentum which they did not let go.

However, soon after his start, Bethell was surprised by a snorter from Kartik Tyagi (3/32). The short ball came quickly to which the England batter responded with a pull, but got an edge which ricocheted off his helmet towards the bowler for an easy grab.

KKR would feel they were tad unlucky when Rovman Powell timed his jump perfectly at extra cover to catch a lofted drive from Kohli off Tyagi, but the ball burst through his hands, giving Kohli a lifeline which proved too costly.

The dismissal had no impact on RCB's charge who had Devdutt Padikkal (39) forging a robust 92-run stand with Kohli for the second wicket.

Neither Kohli nor Padikkal showed any urgency yet remained in complete control of the chase, putting away the bad deliveries while farming the strike with utmost ease.

Another opportunity came KKR's way -- much easier than the one before -- when Arora failed to take a regulation grab off Cameron Green, giving Padikkal a lifeline.

Padikkal's pull shot did not have the elevation and Arora popped out of his hands.

Virat Kohli scored an unbeaten 105 to help Royal Challengers Bengaluru comfortably beat Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets in Raipur on Wednesday. AFP

SCORE BOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Ajinkya Rahane c & b Hazlewood 19, Finn Allen c Sharma b Kumar 18, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (run out) 71, Cameron Green b Rasikh 32, Rinku Singh (not out) 49. Extras (W-2, LB-1) 3. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 192.**

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-48, 3-116, 4-192.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-34-1, Jacob Duffy 4-0-48-0, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-35-1, Rasikh Salam 4-0-35-1, Krunal Pandya 4-0-39-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU: Jacob Bethell c & b Kartik 15, Virat Kohli (not out) 105, Devdutt Padikkal c Rahane b Kartik 39, Rajat Patidar c Rahane b Narine 11, Tim David c Pandey b Kartik 2, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 8. Extras (W-10, LB-4) 14. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 19.1 overs) 194.**

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-129, 3-157, 4-180.

Bowling: Saurabh Dubey 2.1-0-21-0, Vaibhav Arora 4-0-48-0, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-32-3, Sunil Narine 4-0-31-1, Cameron Green 2-0-22-0, Anukul Roy 3-0-36-0.

Result: RCB won by 6 wickets.

PoM: Virat Kohli

RCB's next match: vs PBKS (Dharamsala, May 17).

Punjab Kings look to stall free-fall

DHARAMSALA, PTI

Punjab Kings will need to plug gaping holes in the bowling and fielding department as they look to stop their free-fall in the business end of the Indian Premier League against an already eliminated Mumbai Indians here on Thursday.

After bossing the first half of the tournament, Punjab Kings have lost four games in a row and now find themselves in a precarious position in the race for playoffs.

They need to win at least two of their remaining games to secure a place in the top four.

It was not so long ago that they were the only unbeaten team in the tournament but such is the nature of the format and the IPL that fortunes can swing either way rather quickly.

As captain Shreyas Iyer pointed out after the loss to Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings only have themselves to blame for being in a difficult spot.

The in-form batting unit masked the frailties in the bowling department in the first half of the tournament but more recently, even posting an above-par score, by Iyer's own admission, has not been enough against Delhi Capitals.

Iyer and Co had the game in the bag on a seaming surface but the pacers could not get their lengths right in the last five overs. The pace attack led by Arshdeep Singh has the worst economy rate among the 10 teams.

Xavier Bartlett and Arshdeep provided a stable new-ball combination in the first half of IPL but now that has been unsettled with the arrival of Lockie Ferguson, who is known for his skills in the middle and death overs.

Punjab Kings' pacer Arshdeep Singh will be hoping to improve his horrible economy rate of 9.92 when they take on MI on Thursday. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.428
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	6	1	9	-0.198
Mumbai Indians	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

IN BRIEF

Whitefield post 6-1 victory

▸ Manav and Kiben scored a hat-trick each as FC Whitefield beat PKR FC 6-1 in the KSFA C Division League Championship at the BFS here on Wednesday.

Results: FC Whitefield: 6 (Manav 8th, 11th, 30th, Kiben 18th, 48th, 56th) bt PKR FC: 1 (Nivas 17th); Blue Star FC: 3 (Prashanth R 19th, Shadab NS 54th, Nishanth JD 46th) bt La Esperanza FC: 1 (Stalin 30th+2 pen), Football Aura: 2 (Puneeth Clivert Martis 14th, Akheel Muhammed 28th) bt Silican FC: 1 (Roshan 59th); Universal Blues: 6 (Abhijitha KA 8th, 10th, Sarun NV 9th, 28th, Sayooj MS 21st, Alphin K Wilson 27th) bt Undisputed FC: 0; Blues Football Academy: 1 (Arun 60th+3) drew with Samurai Bengaluru FA: 1 (Ranbir Walia Rao 16th); Kodagu FC: 7 (Sujith K 19th, 40th, Rahul L 32nd, Akash P 35th, 44th, Krishnang S Gowda 36th, Rishon D Almeida 48th) bt Velocita FC: 1 (Om 32nd).

Crawley not in first Test

▸ England have dropped struggling opening batsman Zak Crawley from their squad for next month's first Test against New Zealand at Lord's (June 4-8), reports AFP from London.

Durham's Emilio Gay, one of three uncapped players in a 15-man squad including Hampshire fast bowler Sonny Baker and Somerset wicketkeeper-batsman James Rew.

England squad: Ben Stokes (capt), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, James Rew (wkt), Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wkt), Josh Tongue.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: PBKS vs MI (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHostar**.

FOOTBALL

La Liga: Valencia vs Rayo, Girona vs Sociedad (**both 10:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

TENNIS

Rome Masters: Women's semifinals (**4:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Round of 16 (**10:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

GOLF

PGA Championship: Day 1 (**10:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

Blister worries for favourite McIlroy

Defending champion Scheffler hoping to make it two in a row

NEWTOWN SQUARE (US), AFP

Concern flared on Tuesday about a nagging right foot blister that forced Masters winner Rory McIlroy to halt a practice round for the PGA Championship after only three holes at Aronimink.

The world number two from Northern Ireland said on Sunday after limping through the final round of a PGA Tour event at Quail Hollow that he had a blister under his right pinky toenail that began hurting on Friday.

He insisted it would not be a problem this week, but on Tuesday McIlroy checked his right shoe several times before taking off his right shoe and sock on the fourth tee and was later taken in a cart back to the clubhouse, ending his first practice round of the week.

McIlroy, who had a practice round at Aronimink two weeks ago, told Golf Channel he had soaked his right foot on Monday night and removed the right pinky nail to better treat the blister.

The situation added drama ahead of Wednesday's final practice day and Thursday's opening round, with McIlroy scheduled to tee off at 8:40 am (5:10 pm IST) alongside Spain's Jon Rahm and American Jordan Spieth.

Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler and McIlroy, coming off his sixth major win at last month's and second Masters victory in a row, are favoured in this week's major showdown over the 7,394-yard, par-70 suburban Philadelphia layout.

Before his late-afternoon setback, McIlroy was talking about how to approach Aronimink, known for difficult greens and wide landing areas for long drivers.

"Strategy off the tee is pretty nonexistent. It's basically bash driver down there and then figure it out," McIlroy said.

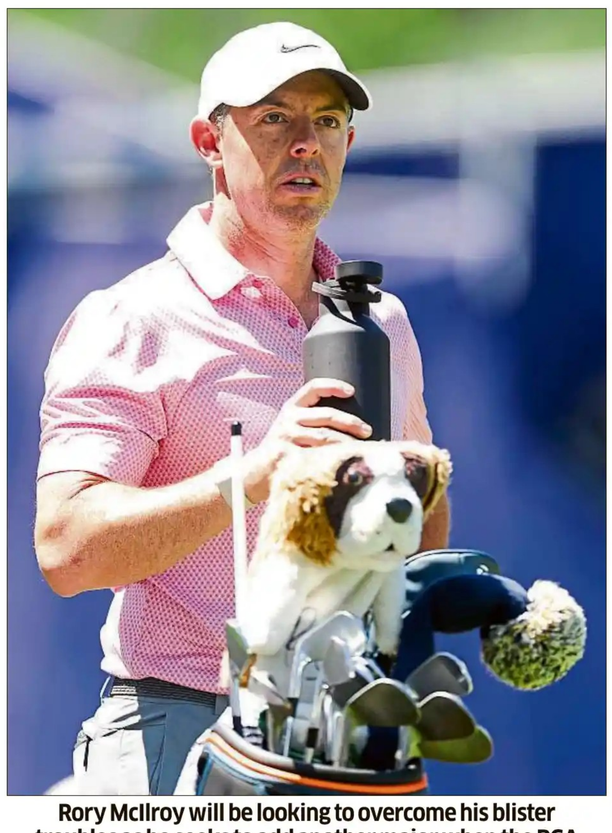
"You can be super aggressive off the tee and then there's a little more strategy and thought going into the greens."

Scheffler, however, expected a tough test if possible rain on Wednesday and Thursday holds off. "The greens have a lot of slope and a lot of pitch to them, so it's going to be challenging," Scheffler said. "If they can stay firm like this I think it's going to be a pretty awesome test... it can get really challenging if it's firm and fast."

Look out, however, if soft greens become receptive. "When it's soft, there's a lot of stuff you can get away with in terms of you can hit it pretty far offline," Scheffler said.

There are 174 bunkers, but many won't be a worry with the distance the world's top players have off the tee.

"In this day and age I'm not sure if it's going to test all aspects of your bag," McIlroy said.



Rory McIlroy will be looking to overcome his blister troubles as he seeks to add another major when the PGA Championship kicks off on Thursday. AFP

Atletico tighten grip on CL spot

BARCELONA, AFP

Atletico Madrid consolidated their fourth place in La Liga with a 2-1 victory over Osasuna on Tuesday while Real Betis beat Elche to guarantee themselves a Champions League spot.

Atletico's English forward Ademola Lookman opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 15th minute after Javi Galan was carded for handball.

Alexander Sorloth made it two with 20 minutes to play, the Norwegian heading in from close range past Aitor Fernandez.

The only blot on Atletico's copybook up until then was a red card for Marcos Llorente for two bad fouls.

Kike Barja made the game tighter than it should have been at the end with an injury-time strike to pull a goal back for Osasuna. But Atletico held on for a result that leaves the Madrid side fourth on 66 points behind newly-crowned champions Barcelona (91pts), Real Madrid (77) and Villarreal (69), all three with a game in hand.

At the other end of the table, Levante climbed out of the bottom three after twice coming back from behind to win 3-2 at Celta Vigo who lost ground in the race for a Champions League spot.

They are one of five clubs on 39 points hovering around the relegation zone, including Elche who were beaten 2-1 at Real Betis, and Espanyol who host Sevilla on Thursday.

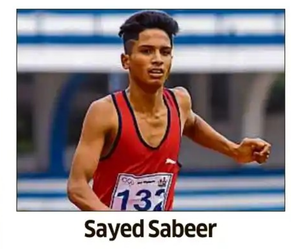
Real Betis' win means that they qualified for next season's Champions League by finishing at least fifth.

Results: Osasuna: 1 (Kike Barja 90+1st) lt to Atletico Madrid: 2 (Lookman 15th P, Sorloth 71st); Celta Vigo: 2 (Jutgla 4th, 48th) lt to Levante: 3 (Arriaga 43rd, De la Fuente 57th, Brugue 63rd); Real Betis: 2 (Hernandez 9th, Fornals 68th) drew with Elche: 1 (Fort 41st).

Perez calls for club elections

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez on Tuesday called club elections and announced that he would stand again, reports AFP from Madrid.

"I am not going to resign," the 79-year-old Perez told a press conference towards the end of a season which Real Madrid will finish trophyless.



Sayed Sabeer

Karnataka's Sabeer, Nikhil in Asian U-20 squad

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka athletes Sayed Sabeer and Nikhil C were included in the 48-member Indian squad for the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships to be held in Hong Kong from May 28.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) selected the athletes on the basis of their performance in the domestic competitions, including the National U-20 Championships in Tumakuru last month. 400m runner Sayed Sabeer, who clocked his personal best of 47.03, is picked in the relay team that includes Kerala's Mohammed Ashfaq, who impressed with a 46.02 run in Tumakuru.

Squad: Men: Rudra Sachin Shinde (200m 4x100m relay), Mohammed Ashfaq (400m, 4x400m relay and mixed 4x400m relay), Piyush Raj (400m, 4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay), Venkatram Reddy Mogali (800m), Sandeep Yadav, Vikas Kumar (3000m), Nikhil C (3000m steeplechase), Kiran Kunchan (110mh), Jashanpreet Singh, Amit Kumar (400mh), Nitin Gupta, Tushar Panwar (5000m race walk), Basant (high jump), Shahnavaz Khan, Jithin Arjunan Raman (long jump), Royshan Poorna Chandrasekar (triple jump), Nishchay (discus throw), Ashuvendra Pratap Singh, Aman (hammer throw), Ashish Yadav (javelin throw), Upkar, Rahul Jakhar (Decathlon), Anshu Rajak, Aditya Pisal, Nived Krishna J, Mehebubul Ahamed, Ranjith Kumar Senthil Kumar, Sayed Sabeer, Nakul Prabhu, Abhay Kumar Dubey (4x100m relay).

Women: Nipam (100, 4x100m relay), Bhumika Sanjay Nehate (200m, 4x100 relay, mixed 4x100m relay), Aarti (200m, 4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay), Neeru Pathak (400m, 4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay), Tahura Khutan (400m, 4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m), Muskan (5,000m), Mansi Avinash Yadav, Aisha Verma (3000m SC), Pooja (high jump), Sadhana Ravi (triple jump), Amanat Kamboj (discus throw), Poonam (javelin throw), Bhavana G (4x100m relay), Rujula Amol Bhonsle (4x100m relay), Kajal Hirabhai Vaja (4x100m relay), Sehnoor Bawa (4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay), Kavita (400m, 4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay), Mehardeep Kaur (4x400m relay, mixed 4x400m relay).

Bumrah maintains top spot

DUBAI, PTI: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah **(in pic)** maintained his pole position among Test bowlers in the latest ICC rankings published on Wednesday.

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill were placed 8th and 9th among the batters respectively with former England Test skipper Joe Root leading the charts with 880 points.

Jaiswal has 750 points and Gill, who has climbed a spot, has accumulated 730 points. Harry Brook is second in the list followed by Travis Head and Steve Smith respectively.

It must be noted that India is yet to play any of their WTC matches in 2026 having last played against South Africa at home in the month of November.

In the bowlers' list, Bumrah is still leading the charts with 879 points while the next best Indian is Mohammed Siraj placed 12th. Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav are currently placed 14th and 15th respectively.

Srikanth, Sindhu, Lakshya advance

BANGKOK, PTI

Star shuttlers PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the singles second round with straight game wins on a mixed day for India at the USD 500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, saw off Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei 21-9, 21-12 while seventh seed Lakshya Sen, a two-time All England finalist, prevailed 21-16, 21-17 over Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh.

Srikanth stunned eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-14, 21-15 in 30 minutes.

PV Sindhu. AFP FILE PHOTO

Srikanth, a former world No. 1, will face Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang, while Sindhu will meet Denmark's Amalie Schulz in the round of 16.

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, returning back from his injury at the Thomas Cup, will square off against either Chinese Taipei's Wang Po-Wei or China's Zhu Xuan Chen.

Young Devika Sihag, who won the Thailand Masters for her maiden super 300 title early this year, also produced a fine show, outclassing world No. 26 Natsuki Nidaira of Japan, 21-19, 13-21, 21-15 in an hour and 11 minutes.

In another match, Malvika Bansod beat Wen Yu Zhang of Canada 13-21, 26-24, 21-13 but Tanvi Sharma suffered a 17-21, 8-21 loss to Hina Akechi of Japan. The 20-year-old Ayush Shetty, a finalist at the Asia Championships, also fought hard before going down 13-21, 21-17 4-21 against Japan's sixth seed Kodai Naraoka, while Tharun Mannepalli lost 12-21, 16-21 to another Japanese Koki Watanabe.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com